



**NATIONAL  
COUNCIL  
OF CANADIAN  
MUSLIMS**

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**CONSEIL  
NATIONAL  
DES MUSULMANS  
CANADIENS**

Votre voix. Votre avenir.

July 30, 2020

VIA EMAIL

TO: Facebook Canada

661 University Avenue #1201

Toronto, ON M5G 1M1

Re: Violation of Community Standards by Sandra Solomon

Dear Ms. Curran:

I write this letter on behalf of the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) to request that Facebook consider permanently banning Sandra Solomon for using the platform.

The NCCM is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organization. Built from within the Canadian Muslim community, NCCM is a leading voice for civic engagement and the promotion of human rights.

While we strongly champion the need for free speech, we also understand that hate speech undermines who we are as a nation.

Individuals who disseminate hate or attack others on the basis of who they are should have no place on Facebook. Facebook has long-standing policies on the dissemination or promotion of hate and should bar individuals who regularly violate community standards policy for posting objectionable content. Further, Facebook should also not allow individuals who engage in offline hate to have a presence on Facebook.

On numerous occasions, Facebook has issued warnings to Solomon informing her that her comments violated Community Standards. Many of these comments were subsequently deleted. While we of course support the rights of all Canadians to engage in discussion, Solomon often exposes targeted individuals or groups to hatred and hatred by others on the basis of a protected characteristic, namely religion. Specifically, Solomon engages in disseminating anti-Muslim content and remarks and encourages perverse acts of xenophobia against Muslim communities. The following are a few examples of these instances:

- In the past, Solomon was seen on video stating that she is visiting mosques “to educate as many as we can people about the true face of Islam” and that she wants to see the Qur’an designated

as “hate literature”.<sup>1</sup> In the video, Ms. Solomon can be seen ripping a page out of a book she said was a Qur’an and placing it under a car’s windshield wiper. She states that “this is where the Qur’an belongs – Satanic, evil book.”

- Solomon posted a misleading video, which takes statements by a Muslim religious leader out of context and spreads disinformation and stokes fears about Shariah law coming to Canada.<sup>2</sup> This video garnered thousands of views, shares and likes, and was posted on Youtube and on at least three different Facebook groups. The sharing of such disinformation fuels further bias and Islamophobia and is intended to feed into the unjustifiable fear regarding a supposed threat of Sharia infiltrating Canada’s legal system.
- Solomon has accused the Canadian Muslim community of bribing government officials in order for mosques to broadcast the Muslim call to prayer during the month of Ramadan. This content appears to have been removed from Facebook.
- Solomon shared a post by another Facebook user, calling for help in finding the home and office addresses of all MP’s and to revolt as soon as possible in Canada.
- Ms. Solomon’s Facebook post states “Jihad of #coronavirus will be the new terrorist weapon of mass destruction”.
- Ms. Solomon’s Youtube channel has been terminated due to multiple or severe violations of its policy prohibiting hate speech.

Facebook should not be used as a platform to disseminate hateful rhetoric against any religious group. Ms. Solomon has been issued multiple warnings and been blocked by Facebook for violating its Community Standards, demonstrating that Solomon has a pattern of disseminating objectionable content on social media. We request that Facebook conduct a fulsome review of Ms. Solomon’s Facebook account and offline behaviour to determine whether Ms. Solomon should continue having a presence on Facebook.

We urge Facebook to take robust action in addressing online hate and to help alleviate the further spread of misinformation and hate by banning those who engage in this type of conduct from having any presence on its platform.

Regards,

Sameha Omer, Director of Legal Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> Jessica Patton and Nick Westoll, “Police investigating after Ontario woman rips Qur’an, puts pages on cars outside of Islamic centre,” *Global News*, (March 25, 2018), online: <<https://globalnews.ca/news/4103314/peel-police-investigating-hate-motivated-incident-islamic-centre/>>.

<sup>2</sup> Andrea Belleamar, “How a misleading YouTube video is stoking fears about Shariah law before the federal election”, *CBC News*, (July 22, 2019), online: <<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/youtube-video-election-shariah-1.5215429>>.