

APPENDIX

Please note that the views in the appendix do not represent the views of the National Council of Canadian Muslims. As much of what was submitted also represent rough notes, drafted quickly for the purpose of the Emergency National Action Summit on Islamophobia, there are spelling mistakes, terminology issues, and grammatical problems. Given that, the submissions, other than the formal submissions, do not necessarily fully capture the meaning of what is meant to be put forward. Further follow-up with the relevant stakeholder should be done to ascertain the intended meaning of the submission.

Appendix A

Formal Submissions From Community Organizations

1. Islamic Relief Canada



Re: National Action Summit on Islamophobia

Recommendations

- 1) Establish a **working definition of Islamophobia** through a six-month consultative process with key community stakeholders and town hall meetings. We need a unified broad-based definition of Islamophobia supported by universities, political parties, civil society, and Muslim organizations. In this context, all such measures should be adopted with the perspective of **not protecting a religion — but, rather, protecting believers and others associated with a religion.** Any definition should relate to the protections afforded by the legal definition of

- 5) In partnership with universities and local community organizations, the federal government should establish a **national research lab on Islamophobia**. The purpose of the lab would be to collect evidence-based research and data on Islamophobia, conduct extensive research into root causes, and provide recommendations on effective counter-programming.
- 6) In partnership with media institutions and local governments, the federal government should commit to working with community organizations to launch **public awareness campaigns** about Islam and Muslims through radio, television, and social media. Local governments should pave the way to outfit public transport and other public venues with decals that raise awareness of Islam and Canadian Muslims. Such campaigns have been successful in the United Kingdom in bridging gaps and educating communities on Muslims, as well as in raising awareness about hate crimes and how to report them.
- 7) Federal, provincial, and municipal governments should **implement systemic changes to eliminate Islamophobia in police services and national security agencies**. In our conversations, many individuals told us that when they reported incidents in the past, they have often been dismissed and not taken seriously. All hate and anti-Muslim hate incidents should be actioned by police, with the relevant authorities being held accountable for failures to take action on reports. Authorities should also be working closely with the national hotline (mentioned in point 3).
- 8) Provincial governments should include **anti-Islamophobia awareness** and basic learning on religions/religious communities in Canada in education curriculums.
- 9) The federal government should allocate funding to an organization (such as the National Council of Canadian Muslims) specializing in handling Islamophobia and diversity to devise

and roll out a **training program for faith-based and other community organizations**. The training should cover all forms of hate, such as islamophobia, antisemitism, homophobia and should include education around relevant legislation and language. All organizations that receive government funding for programs should be mandated to undergo training as part of their contractual agreements.

- 10) We need a revision of the national security threat assessment and **stricter controls on countering, preventing and banning white supremacy** in Canada. Currently, Canada is among the top producers of online hate content from white supremacist groups. Governments should be clear on where Canada stands on white supremacy. We need more security, better preventative measures, and a crackdown on groups and individuals promoting white supremacist ideology. This includes continuing to add more white supremacist groups to the terrorist entities list. Currently, the terrorist threat disproportionately and inaccurately primarily focuses on Muslim and racialized communities.

2. Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association



Monday, July 11, 2021

The Honourable Bardish Chagger
Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth
25 Eddy Street, 12th Floor, Room 0
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M5
Sent by Email to: bardish.chagger@canada.ca

AND CC TO:

Mustafa Farooq, Chief Executive Officer
National Council of Canadian Muslims
P.O. Box 13219
Ottawa, ON K2K 1X4
Sent by Email to: mfarooq@nccm.ca

RE: CMLA's Submission re the National Action Summit on Islamophobia

To Minister Chagger:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association (the "CMLA") in connection with the National Action Summit on Islamophobia. Founded in 1998, the CMLA is a non-profit association and our members are from all areas of the professional community across Canada, including lawyers at small and large firms, corporate counsel, government lawyers, academics, and non-practising lawyers. Our past members include several current judges. In all of our work, the CMLA promotes Charter values and the rule of law in order to address the concerns of vulnerable and marginalized people including, but not limited to, Muslim Canadians. We have consistently assisted Parliamentary and Senate Committees and appeared numerous times as Intervenor at the Supreme Court of Canada on matters of national importance.

As a CMLA initiative, we also administer the Muslim Legal Support Centre ("MLSC"), which is the only Canadian legal clinic that prioritizes access to justice for Muslims, understood as a subgroup of diverse individuals with common interests. The MLSC collaborates with community-based organizations that assist individuals that are victims of Islamophobia.

We are grateful that the federal government is committed to holding a National Action Summit on Islamophobia this July. Islamophobia is a serious concern that threatens the safety of people across Canada. We have to date, not received any information directly from the government related to the summit, nor have we received any information on how organizations may be able to participate. We have however prepared the following based on a request by the National



Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM). We recommend direct consultation with our organization.

On June 19, 2021, the NCCM issued a call for community groups to provide policy submissions to eliminate Islamophobia. We were provided a 3-week deadline, with submissions due on July 11, 2021. To be completed meaningfully, this policy development exercise requires a detailed amount of research and consultation, within and across community groups. Based on this limited timeframe, we have provided some preliminary thoughts, within three focussed subject areas: law enforcement; and judges and adjudicators. We would be happy to provide further detailed information in these areas if you so wish.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response. We would also appreciate any further details on the Summit including any opportunities to attend and or present at the Summit.

Yours truly,

Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association
contactCMLA@gmail.com



Recommendations to Help Eliminate Islamophobia

1. TRAINING AND APPOINTMENTS OF JUDGES AND ADJUDICATORS

Judges and administrative adjudicators bear a significant amount of responsibility in our justice system. They are routinely required to assess credibility, weigh evidence and render decisions that impact the basic integrity of Canadians. In light of the systemic nature of discrimination, it is important that these decisions are made carefully to avoid the perpetuation of Islamophobia within our courts and tribunals. During our consultations, the CMLA heard first hand accounts of differential treatment by court staff and the court that played out in the conduct of hearings and in some cases in the specific decisions. It is important for decision makers across Canada at all levels, to confront individual biases and increase their awareness of systemic racism including Islamophobia and anti-Black racism.

Anti-Islamophobia Training

The CMLA was pleased to see that the federal government recently passed Bill C-3, *An Act to amend the Judges Act and the Criminal Code*. Amongst other things, this Bill mandates federally-appointed judges to participate in continuing education relating to “social context, which includes systemic racism and systemic discrimination”. The Canadian Judicial Council (the “CJC”) will administer the training for these programs. It is important to note that the CJC itself must take steps to ensure its staff and members come from diverse backgrounds. Any training on systemic racism and discrimination must come from individuals with both professional and lived experience.

For the purpose of these federally-appointed judges, we recommend that the CJC include specific training on Islamophobia within the social context and anti-discrimination curriculum. The intention behind Bill C-3 is laudable and systemic discrimination takes many forms. Islamophobia is a unique and intersectional concept, and the nuances will be missed if it is simply grouped alongside other forms of discrimination.

We also recommend that all judges and adjudicators be mandated to participate in similar forms of continuing education in the form described above. Most laypeople’s interactions with the justice system are in the context of administrative decision-makers (as opposed to courts) so effective training on “social context” is particularly important in these forums.

Diversity of Judicial and Adjudicative Appointments



In addition to the above-mentioned training, it is also important that judges and adjudicators reflect the diversity of Canadians, including the Muslim community. This outcome can introduce new perspectives and meaningfully challenge systemic biases within the justice system, including Islamophobia. Diversity also fosters greater legitimacy in the decision-making process. There are myriad approaches to achieve this outcome. In 2017, Ontario’s provincial Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee had taken intentional steps to encourage legal professionals from diverse communities to apply to become judges. These steps include:

- Changing the judicial application form to include an option to self-identify as Indigenous, belonging to a racialized community or other ethnic or cultural group, a person with a disability, LGBTQ2+, or by gender;
- Increasing outreach, advertising and informational sessions to law associations and students across the province to reach a wider and more diverse audience;
- Participating in a roundtable with representatives from the bar and federal government on increasing the diversity in provincial and federal judicial appointments; and
- Collecting race-based data on judicial applicants and new appointments to strengthen future reporting on diversity.

While the CMLA questions the appropriateness of the 2021 *Courts of Justice Act* amendments, which allocate greater weight to the Attorney-General to make “patronage appointments”, we recommend that governments use the above-mentioned steps as guidance to improve diversity in the adjudicative process. We continue to reiterate that appointments must be representative of the communities it serves, free from bias, and fair and accessible regardless of ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.

2. ADDRESS SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Islamophobia negatively impacts Muslims with respect to acts of hatred committed by racist individuals that are not adequately investigated and charged; and by biased law enforcement that perpetuates stereotypes or engages through profiling. It is essential that intelligence services and law enforcement adjust to deal with both concerns.

First, they must improve recruitment and training. Second, it is imperative that intelligence services, policing, and prosecutorial services devote more resources to addressing the threat posed to public safety by white supremacists. Further, as described below, we recommend the development of a federal and national division of the Department of Justice that deals with acts and crimes of hate.

Agencies such as the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and their partner prosecutorial services (both federally and provincially) are not free from systemic bias and institutionalized



Islamophobia. All of these services must reflect the communities they serve, have the knowledge and training to serve Canada's diverse populations, and ensure that their work is conducted in a fair and impartial nature free of bias and discrimination.

Recruitment

We recommend that law enforcement and prosecutorial services implement recruitment from persons from under-represented communities, including the Muslim community. While this, on its own, will not eliminate Islamophobia, the introduction of diversity in law enforcement can generate a greater cultural awareness within law enforcement bodies to respond to systemic biases (including Islamophobia) in processes and procedures. Further, a diverse law enforcement body can generate greater trust amongst citizens and foster a community policing model.

In addition, law enforcement agencies must examine and ensure that their leadership is also diverse by ensuring programs focus on helping retain and promote racialized employees creating a clear path for success and tracking recruitment and retention data.

Training

Most agencies have now implemented training related to discrimination, bias and racism for their employees. It is imperative that Islamophobia be specifically discussed and included in any training materials. This training must be developed with experts and in consultation with affected groups. Training should include scenario-driven examples that will help identify and curb issues of racial profiling, discrimination and islamophobia. Any training must be evaluated and assessed for its effectiveness.

Data

We also recommend that intelligence agencies and law enforcement bodies increase the transparency of their investigations and interactions with the public in the course of their general enforcement duties. Particular focus should be placed on over-targeting and over-policing in racialized urban areas and with vulnerable and marginalized populations. In addition to improving accountability (within and across units), these practices also generate meaningful statistical data to assess the relationship between law enforcement practices and Islamophobia. Disaggregated data must be collected and analyzed on all interactions and then de-identified and published for transparency and accountability purposes.

Similarly, we recommend greater transparency and accountability with respect to professional misconduct by law enforcement. Public hearings and decisions should be mandatory for all levels of law enforcement. National legislation should be developed that can be used as a model for the provinces. Any cases with a national nexus should be subject to this oversight.



Overall, we recommend a zero-tolerance policy for racial discrimination with clear consequences for anyone caught participating in discrimination.

3. ESTABLISH AN ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROSECUTORIAL UNIT

The threats to public safety and national security and public safety posed by right-wing extremism and white supremacists require a specific federal response. This category represents a significant modern threat to safety that has resulted in mass murders in Quebec and Ontario. It is compounded by the proliferation of online hate.

We recommend that the federal government create a special unit in the Department of Justice that is devoted to investigating and prosecuting acts of discrimination and hate. This unit will provide continuity to deal with the distinct threat posed by racist individuals and movements in the private and public sector. This unit should be composed of persons with diverse backgrounds and include individuals that have a distinct understanding of Islamophobia.

This unit will work with intelligence agencies and guide law enforcement and partner prosecutorial services in provinces with more effective methods to promote public safety, protect national security and combat Islamophobia.

3. SALCO



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July 9, 2021

Introduction

The South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (SALCO) is a not-for-profit legal clinic, funded by Legal Aid Ontario, to serve low-income South Asian communities in Ontario. Our clinic practices poverty law within racialized South Asian communities and also does larger advocacy work on issues that impact South Asian communities across Canada. We provide legal advice and representation in multiple areas of law including immigration, human rights, income maintenance (Ontario Works, ODSP, Canada Child Benefit, Old Age Security and CPP), tenancy, and employment law. Our casework and advocacy often involve issues of systemic racism and discrimination.

A significant portion of SALCO's legal casework raises issues of systemic racism and discrimination. We have worked on cases of direct or systemic discrimination in access to services, housing, income supports, employment, immigration, policing, and within the larger justice system framework.

SALCO's law reform work has addressed the growing inequities faced by racialized communities related to multiple intersecting identities including gender, faith, ethnic background, and socio-economic status:

- SALCO has made several submissions at the United Nations on systemic racism in Canada, including highlighting long-standing Islamophobia in Canada;
- SALCO sat on the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD) Consultation Committee, and through the Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change, helped to draft the legislation that embedded the ARD in law. SALCO supported the province's creation of an Islamophobia sub-pillar as a priority area for the previous work of the ARD. Unfortunately, these strategies were dismantled in recent years;
- SALCO currently sits on the Toronto Police Services Anti-Racism Advisory Panel;

- SALCO has made submissions to the federal government on the creation of a National Anti-Racism Strategy, including on on-going call for National Action Plan on Racism that specifically includes actions to address Islamophobia. Unfortunately, a clear action plan with targets, measures, data collection, funding, and resources has yet to be developed;
- SALCO has deputed in Quebec and appeared at the Supreme Court of Canada on the issue of allowing Muslim women to wear the niqab in different settings and the impact of anti-niqab sentiment on Muslim communities in Canada, including the government's own role in the proliferation of Islamophobia;
- SALCO supports a number of campaigns in Ontario and across Canada to tackle Islamophobia; and
- SALCO currently sits on an Ontario coalition of community leaders seeking to address hate speech and white supremacy.

In recent years, we have seen a definite rise in hate speech and hate-related violence throughout Canada. There is no doubt that growing white supremacist movements, unchecked online hate, and government sanctioned discrimination play a significant role in creating an environment that allows Islamophobia to flourish unfettered.

The rising frequency and brazenness with which people now spew hate and violence shows us that Canada is failing to combat violent and otherwise harmful displays of discrimination and racism, including Islamophobia. Currently, a real and accessible mechanism to hold people accountable and responsible for Islamophobia or other hate motivated acts does not exist in any meaningful way.

As the federal government embarks on a National Action Summit on Islamophobia we make the following submissions and recommendations.

Considerations for National Action Summit:

A) Criminal Justice

The *Criminal Code* currently contains two main provisions that can be used to charge persons accused of committing online hate crimes: sections 318 and 319. While section 318 prohibits advocating genocide, section 319 more broadly prohibits public incitement of hatred and the willful promotion of hatred and is thus the likelier charging section in cases of online hate crime. The use of section 318 is further limited by the fact that proceedings under it may not be initiated without the consent of the Attorney General.

Section 319(2) creates a hybrid offence that criminalizes: “everyone who, by communicating statements, other than in private conversation, willfully promotes hatred against any identifiable group.” The maximum punishment available, if proceeding by indictment, is two years’ imprisonment.

Bill C-36, introduced in June 2021 also proposes to amend the Criminal Code to:

- define “hatred” for the two hate propaganda offences in section 319 of the Criminal Code, consistent with the decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada
- create a new peace bond to prevent the commission of hate propaganda offences and hate crimes that is modelled on existing peace bond provisions

Alternatively, individuals committing certain types of online hate crimes can also be charged with more generic *Criminal Code* offences such as uttering threats or harassment, with the hate motivation of the crime being considered an aggravating circumstance on sentencing, under section 718.2(a)(i)

Canada also maintains a listing of terrorist entities under the *Criminal Code*. There are severe penalties under the *Criminal Code* for people and organizations that participate in or deal with the property or finances of a listed entity.

Recommendations:

- i. Both 318 and 319 also have a veto attached to them known as “consent,” which means the Attorney General’s approval is required before a prosecution can even begin. That consent is used to determine if the prosecution is in the public interest.

As the popularity of using the internet as a forum for spreading hate only continues to increase, Parliament should reconsider whether the requirement for the Attorney General’s consent places undue limits on the prosecution of online hate crimes. Requiring this consent to proceed with online hate crime prosecutions creates an additional barrier to these charges being pursued by authorities.

- ii. The government should collect and review data on the use of general *Criminal Code* offences to prosecute hate crime / hate speech to determine those provisions have been used, to what degree of success, and against whom.

- iii. Remove provisions from the *Criminal Code* that allow the federal government to create a list of terrorist entities. While Canada recently announced the addition of new entities to this list including white supremacist groups, the reality is that this list and the label of “terrorist” has been used primarily to demonize, police, and surveil minority and especially Muslim communities. Canada has long been aware of the danger of white supremacist groups, and the choice to designate these groups as “terrorists” was a purely political decision motivated by the aftermath of the death of a Muslim-Canadian family. It is our position that these sections of the *Criminal Code* have done nothing to combat hate crime.

B) Move Away from Criminal Justice Reform as the Mechanism to Combat Hate Crime – Focus on Civil and Systemic Remedies for Hate Crimes

SALCO submits that the police and the criminal justice system are not effective methods to combat Islamophobia and hate crimes as compared to alternative approaches. SALCO does not advocate for enhancing police funding and resources as a mechanism to combat hate crimes.

It is widely acknowledged that systemic racism and discrimination is a significant problem within our criminal justice system. The criminal justice system lacks effective remedies in dealing with hate crimes, both online and off. Punitive sanctions like those traditionally meted out by the criminal courts do little to address or change the attitudes and beliefs that motivate hate crimes.

Racialized people and communities have been targeted by racist and discriminatory practices from law enforcement and justice systems in Canada. To advise those same communities that their main recourse against hate crime is to contact the police defies logic. The reality is that the criminal justice system has provided an inadequate response in many hate crimes cases. Statistics Canada data from 2017 reveals that police solved only 28% of reported hate-crimes incidents. By comparison the solve rate for other crimes was 40%. Even when the hurdle of reporting to police is cleared by victims of hate crime, the chances of success are 12 percent lower than with other types of offences.

While we support a client’s right and choice to contact police in cases of hate crimes, many of SALCO’s clients will simply not do so, leading to woefully under-reported hate crimes statistics.

- Many SALCO clients have either no or precarious immigration status. Contact the police as a victim puts these populations at risk of devastating immigration

consequences, as police have indicated that they are required to report to immigration and enforce immigration warrants.

- Many SALCO clients face gender-based violence and have had very negative interactions with police who have double-charged victims or refused to take any action against an abuser.
- Many SALCO clients have faced racial profiling from the police in traffic stops and other police interactions leading to emotional trauma, violence, injury, and even death.

These same populations face hate crimes on a regular basis that go largely unreported to the police for all of the reasons noted above.

A more meaningful remedy for hate crimes must lie in civil models that seek to address these crimes, support for robust data collection on the incidence of hate crime and speech, provide meaningful access to justice for those seeking legal recourse, and support community-based programs that seek to address the motivators and thinking underlying hate crimes in a genuine attempt at anti-racism and anti-oppression education. Recognizing that our current model has been ineffective, we must move to a more innovative approach to deal decisively with the historical and growing violence against Muslim and other communities.

Recommendations:

- i. The government should create civil and community-based mechanisms to address online hate that do not engage the criminal justice system and which allow for the input and meaningful contribution of all-level stakeholders.
- ii. The government should create a civil body mandated to specifically address individual and community hate crime complaints with the power to enforce civil remedies. This would allow people who may not access the criminal justice system to report hate crimes and seek alternative remedies.
- iii. SALCO also supports the proposed reinstatement of s. 13 of the *Canada Human Rights Act* to provide a civil mechanism for people to seek redress from online hate.
- iv. Enhance access to justice by funding legal supports for those cases where individuals / groups wishing to seek civil remedies, including accessing a civil body (recommendation no. 2), the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, or the

courts (example: defamation - in Ontario we had an excellent court decision where the Superior Court of Justice awarded 2.5 million dollars to a restaurant owner who had been targeted by two anti-Muslim advocates). Due to barriers like financial constraints, many people / groups are not able to access civil remedies on their own.

- v. Create a National Anti-Hate Action Plan to be implemented by a National Anti-Hate Secretariat: In addition to responsive mechanisms to address hate crimes through criminal and civil remedies, Canada should also approach hate crime from a more systemic level. Canada should create a National Anti-Hate Action Plan, which includes:
- Create, legislate, and resource a National Anti-Hate Secretariat
 - Implement comprehensive and mandatory disaggregated data collection on the incidence of hate crime / violence including details on the communities and individuals impacts
 - Pillars with community-led action plans that target hate against different communities including but not limited to Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, Anti-Asian hate, Anti-Indigenous hate, and Anti-Black hate
 - Supporting a barrier free reporting system for hate crime (through community agencies, a Secretariat, a civil complaints body, reports to the police, etc), to capture accurate statistics on the incidence of hate crimes and the people communities more impacted; and
 - Supporting education across Canada on the underlying issues of discrimination/hatred.
- vi. Introduce legislation that targets online hate speech and the social media platforms that host it;
- vii. Specifically require that funding be provided directly to agencies that have direct connection to communities facing Islamophobia to work on education, the collection of data, and any other projects that seek to develop systemic change and support the trauma faced by many communities. For far too long, funded projects in Canada continue to go to organizations that do not work directly in community. Support and build capacity for community agencies that engage directly with people facing hate crimes, create easy funding structures that don't shut out those organizations, and ensure that funding is long-term and stable so that organizations can meaningfully engage on hate and discrimination. We cannot combat hate in a 3-year funded project and it is insulting to think that we could.

C) Federal Government Must Take A Stronger Stand On Hate-Motivated Legislation in Canada

Canada's statements condemning Islamophobia and all forms of hate are diminished by its lack of action on both provincial and federal legislation that are anti-Muslim.

The *Zero Tolerance For Barbaric Cultural Practices Act* still remains on the books in Canada. The history of the legislation was very much a directed attack against Muslim communities in Canada, whose actions were seen as "barbaric" by the federal government. That Canada continues to allow such a clearly racist piece of legislation to be law is at direct odds with its condemnation of anti-Muslim hate. Calls made for a number of years to repeal this legislation have been ignored.

Canada has also failed to take a strong stand against Bill 21 in Quebec. Quebec has had a long history of anti-Muslim discrimination veiled as "legislative reform". Canada's reluctance to intervene in a court challenge to Quebec's controversial Bill 21 leaves the erroneous impression that there is nothing that the federal government can do to try to stop the law that bans teachers, police and certain other public servants from wearing religious symbols at work - A law that is clearly aimed at Muslim women in Quebec who wear the niqab. Multiple lawyers and legal scholars believe that Canada has grounds to intervene and should, in fact, do so.

Recommendations:

- Canada should repeal the *Zero Tolerance For Barbaric Cultural Practices Act*. Nothing in this legislation has created supports for victims of violence and it is an offensive and anti-Muslim piece of legislation that highlights "barbaric" practices by "certain communities"; and
- Canada should unequivocally denounce Bill 21 as anti-Muslim hate that has played a role in the increasing violence against Muslim communities across Canada. Canada should also intervene in upcoming challenges to Bill 21 in the courts.

Conclusion

To be frank, to call a National Summit at a time when action, rather than siloed discourse, is desperately needed appears to be, at best, completely ineffective though well-intentioned, and more cynically, an opportunistic announcement added to the many

platitudes of governments and other stakeholders. The truth is that the Canadian government MUST act NOW to create an effective and accessible mechanism that allows for both criminal and civil legal complaint mechanisms, and a more systemic approach that addresses the underlying discriminatory attitudes, collects and reports on data, and holds online social media platforms accountable for their own failure to address online hate. Without meaningful action, we will see more violence, more death, and more trauma for Muslim and other communities facing growing hate across Canada.

4. Ottawa Muslim Association

Community Consultations on Islamophobia

Submission to NCCM for the National Summit on Islamophobia

Details

Date: Monday July 5th, 2021, at 5 :30 - 7:30 PM EST

Location: Virtual, via Zoom

Hosts:

Ottawa Muslim Association (OMA)

Mohamed Adi, President

Ahmed Ibrahim, former President of OMA

MPP Joel Harden's office

City Councillor Jeff Leiper's office

Attendees: 56 Participants

Moderator: Barâa Arar, member of the Ottawa Muslim community

Elected Representatives Present*

Mona Fortier, Minister of Middle-Class Prosperity and MP for Ottawa Vanier (Liberal)

Chandra Arya, MP for Ottawa Nepean (Liberal)

Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition of Ontario (NDP)

Joel Harden, MPP for Ottawa Centre (NDP)

Theresa Kavanagh, City Councillor, Bay Ward, Ottawa

Rawson King, City Councillor, Rideau-Rockliff Ward, Ottawa

Jeff Leiper, City Counselor, Kitchissippi Ward, Ottawa

**Elected officials from all political parties within the riding/ward were invited.*

Outcomes

The following policy recommendations were consolidated based on suggestions and discussions during the consultation.

Public Education Reform [Provincial]

- Teach religious literacy; elimination of anti-Muslim stereotypes from elementary and high school curriculums
- Include a robust unit on Islam in World Religion courses in high school curriculum
- Appoint Elders and chaplains at every school for Indigenous students, Muslim students etc. (must be well funded, not volunteer program)
- Develop culturally competent resources and reporting structures anti-Muslim and racist bullying
 - School boards need systems to report and track racist and Islamophobic incidents so it is not left to a case-by-case, school-by-school approach
- Train staff, administration, teachers and guidance counsellors on Islamophobia and its effects on students.

Hate Crime Reporting, Statistics, and Justice [Provincial/Municipal]

- Eliminate barriers to reporting; develop robust systems for online reporting, which exists in Ottawa but should be implemented across the province and country
- Third party reporting; not only victims can report but witnesses and community centres (i.e. mosques) as well
- Provide open data, hosted online, for hate crime statistics for every police service
- Increase police patrols and police awareness about Islamophobic attacks. Have a planned security approach after anti-Muslim attacks.
- Hate crime units to be staffed and well known to the community
- Offenders who engaged in Anti-Muslim violence/hate crimes should receive awareness training
- Develop alternative dispute resolution/diversion program for offenders who engaged in Anti-Muslim violence/hate crimes

Federal Agencies and Public Servants

- Implement mechanism to independently review the instances of racism within federal government departments, especially: CBSA, CSIS, and the Canadian Armed Forces
- Mandatory cultural competency (with specific Islamophobia lens) training at the federal level for bureaucrats, especially those who provide service to Canadians
- Legislate protection for those who speak up in the workplace

- Collect disaggregated data for internal use (within government agencies) and external use (serving Canadians)
- Muslim voices represented in the executive tables of federal departments and agencies

Security Infrastructure Program [Federal government]

- Increase the government subsidy to at least 90% so that places of worship like mosques don't have to incur the 50% cost (at present)
- Make the application process more accessible

Mental Health Resources [all levels of government]

- Mental health resources need to be well-funded for Muslims, this includes community centre programs, counsellors within schools and workplaces

Fund Anti-Racism Secretariats [all levels of government]

- Funding and staffing be entrenched in law so it is not subject to change at a party's whims, creation of the secretariat in itself is not useful
- Secretariats must be transparent and communicate with one another

Support local organizations and community leaders

- Grant charitable status to organizations working on anti-racism and to counter Islamophobia [Federal government]
- Storytelling time and other diverse activities with Muslims at public libraries [Municipal]
- Special funding for arts and cultural initiatives and projects to work on topics like racism and Islamophobia [all levels]

Accountability for Hateful Speech [Federal government]

- Sanction news media for defamatory language and headlines (i.e. Does Islamophobia exist?)
- Sanction political candidates and politicians for inciting hate
- Legislation for combating Online Hate; hosting services that have users and audiences in Canada to be legally compelled to monitor their platforms and services for hate speech (includes financial penalties and criminal liability)

Quotations*

I am scared and worried about my 12-year-old daughter who wears a hijab, going to the park alone. I keep giving her advice and tips about her safety. While walking with my wife [who wears hijab], I am constantly thinking "is someone going to hit us from behind".

My son called a girl "fat" at school and the principal called me and was very upset with my son. She wanted to suspend him. The girl called my son a "terrorist", but she was never held accountable. The principal kept insisting that my son made a mistake as if the girl didn't make a mistake too. This double standard should be addressed in our schools.

One thing I've seen as a therapist and with my own experiences in workplaces is that the channels to address islamophobic incidents in workplaces are very complex and often not fruitful. People need to know where to go and what to expect. Also mental health resources have been extremely limited and we know Muslim and minority communities have more systemic barriers and issues of accessibility. The need is huge right now. So definitely need more funding to address training in workplaces, mental health funding and reporting.

Hate is rampant in our federal service, you only need to take a walk through the bureaucratic offices and you will see visibly Muslim women for example, sitting in isolation, bullied, and under employed.

**The foregoing have been abridged for clarity and to protect the identities of the speakers.*

5. Ottawa Muslim Women's Association



Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization

In the Name of God, The Most Beneficent The Most Merciful

July 9th, 2021,

The Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization (OMWO) was established on September 30, 2001, shortly after the September 11 attacks when the Muslim community was reeling with shock. About 50 dedicated ladies from diverse origins decided to form an organization with the objective of Building Bridges with people of all faith groups and the community at large as well as addressing misconceptions about Islam and the negative image and status of Muslim women. The OMWO is committed to working together to establish mutual respect, acceptance understanding of all cultures, traditions, faiths and religions. The OMWO reaches out to fellow Muslims and with all other organizations in Ottawa and Canada with the purpose of the common good of all.

OMWO OBJECTIVES

1. To establish and maintain an environment for the teaching and instruction of its members in the basic and moral principles of Islam.
2. To carry on religious, social, cultural, civic, charitable, literary, athletic, scientific, research and other Islamic activities.
3. To print, publish, distribute literature on Islam.
4. To conduct public and private meetings of a religious, social, and educational nature to enhance the knowledge of the members.
5. To receive, acquire and hold gifts, devices, bequests and charitable donations.
6. To co-operate with other NGOs which have similar values, objects and goals in whole or in part to the objects of the organization.
7. To give charitable donations both in cash and kind to deserving persons and to approved bona fide charities.
8. To foster and strengthen brotherly/sisterly relations among fellow Muslims.
9. To promote communication and understanding between Muslims and fellow citizens of other faiths.
10. The OMWO is carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the OMWO shall be used solely to promote its objectives.



Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization

For twenty years, the OMWO has been fighting Islamophobia and prejudices against Muslim, in particular Muslim women. Education and dialogue are our guide in our work.

OMWO holds an annual dinner each spring to bring together the diverse Ottawa community. This Festival of Friendship Annual Dinner has become a tradition in Ottawa and continues to attract the community as well as officials from the city of Ottawa, the Ontario provincial legislature, the House of Commons, and diplomats from different countries.

The benefits from the Festival of Friendship Dinners have been donated to several charities and projects in Ottawa, Canada and overseas like The Royal Ottawa Hospital, the CHEO, Amnesty International Canada, the Ottawa Food Bank, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, among many others.

Islamophobia in brief in Canada:

- 46% of Canadians have an unfavourable view of Islam, more than other religious traditions
- 42% of Canadians think discrimination against Muslim is “mainly their fault”
- 47% of Canadians support banning headscarves in public
- 56% of Canadians believe that Islam suppresses women rights
- As compared to other groups targeted by hate, Muslims and Indigenous people had the highest percentage of women victims (45%) between 2010 and 2018
- 51% of Canadians support surveillance of mosques

Sources: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Religion/Islamophobia-AntiMuslim/Civil%20Society%20or%20Individuals/Noor-ICLMG-ISSA.pdf>

Statistics Canada reported a 9-per-cent rise in hate crimes committed against Muslims from 2018 to 2019 with the vast majority of hate crimes are not reported to police.

Muslim women who are wearing the hijab are in the front line of this gendered islamophobia.

Few examples of the attacks that recently targeted Muslim women:

- On June 23, 2021, in St. Albert, a city northwest of Edmonton, a knife-wielding man uttered racial slurs and attacked two Muslim women who were walking on a pathway. Police say the man grabbed one of the women by her hijab and pushed her to the ground, where she was knocked unconscious.

- Edmonton police have laid charges in **at least seven** incidents they allege were motivated by hate since December 2020.

Source: <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/07/04/they-only-call-it-a-hate-crime-after-you-get-killed-as-muslim-women-are-attacked-in-alberta-a-community-asks-can-canada-face-its-islamophobia-problem.html>



**Ottawa Muslim Women's
Organization**

Federal and Provincial Laws targeting Muslim women:

- The Niqab ban during the Citizenship Oath ceremony by the Harper government (2015)
- Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act (2015)
- Bill 21, The Laicity Act introduced and passed in Quebec by the Coalition Avenir Quebec government. This act mainly targets Muslim women wearing hijab, it prevents them from working as teachers, public servants, police officers, crown prosecutors...

The OMWO recommendations to fight islamophobia:

- 1- Introduce a mandatory anti-racism education curriculum in all Ontario public schools: Islamophobia should be identified, explained, and fought. The \$300,000 promised recently by the Ontario government isn't enough. A funding of at least \$1,000,000 should be a starting point
- 2- Introduce a mandatory anti-racism education sensitivity program to all federal public servants.
- 3- Introduce a mandatory anti-racism education sensitivity program for all Ontario public servants.
- 4- Introduce a mandatory anti-racism education sensitivity program to the City of Ottawa employees
- 5- Identity politics, such as weaponizing of the bodies of Muslim women and their religious attire during the political campaign should be banned.
- 6- Free self-defense courses should be given in many community centers to Muslim women who fear for their lives
- 7- Hate Crime Units in Police Services should be staffed adequately. They should build good ties with the affected communities and show that they are serious about reporting and prosecuting any hate crime.
- 8- Bill-21, the Laicity Act, should be denounced by all politicians as Islamophobic. Prime Minister Trudeau should ask to repeal it.
- 9- Public advertisement to fight Islamophobia should be promoted on social media, TV, public transit.
- 10- Unfair targeting of Charitable Muslim organizations should stop, and more transparency and accountability should surround the work of agencies like Canada Revenue Agency, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Canada Border Services Agency.

Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/targeting-muslim-charities-1.6059432>

The Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization Board of Directors:

- Dr. Sahada Alolo, President
- Nazira Tareen, Founder
- Dr. Safaa Fouda, former President
- Ayan Dualeh, Vice President
- Hamida Khanani, Treasurer
- Dr. Monia Mazigh, Secretary
- Nevin Bayatly, Joint Secretary
- Diba Hareer, Communication
- May Jebara, Joint Treasurer

6. The Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities



ECMC Policy Recommendations on Islamophobia for the Government of Canada:

Submitted through the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)

Summary:

There have been a number of worthy initiatives and programs started by the federal Government within the past four years, particularly since the shooting attack at the Quebec City mosque in 2017.

We feel, however, that more concrete and urgent action needs to be taken at all three levels of government. This particularly in view of the recent tragic killing of a Muslim family in London, Ontario as well as numerous other attacks and acts of harassment against hijab-observing Muslim women in Edmonton and some other cities in recent months. These random acts of violence and harassment have created a climate of fear among some individuals and families across Alberta.

This state of affairs should be – and very likely is – completely unacceptable to all peace-loving Canadians.

Key Policy Recommendations:

In view of the above background, we urge the federal Government to continue and enhance its action plans against sources of hate, with a specific focus on the following key areas:

1. Counter *online* hate speech/propaganda:

Our experience indicates that much of the hate speech and hate propaganda is initiated and fostered through online social media groups. This should be an area of major concern for all levels of government across Canada.

We are encouraged by the introduction of Bill C-36 in the House of Commons, which is intended to make changes to the Criminal Code of Canada as well as the Canadian Human Rights Act and certain other pieces of legislation in order to be able to monitor online hate activities.

We will carefully monitor the progress of this Bill through its passage through various stages until its final adoption into law.

2. Dismantle known extremist groups:

There are numerous publicly available reports, including a 2019 report compiled by the Organization for the Prevention of Violence (OPV) in Alberta, which indicate a substantial

increase in reported hate crimes committed by several white supremacist and extremist groups, a significant proportion of which is targeted against Muslims.

We are pleased to learn that two hate groups, the Three Percenters and the Arian Strikeforce, have been listed by the federal Government as terrorist entities in Canada.

We propose that the activities of all white supremacist and hate groups should continue to be monitored to prevent any harm to communities at risk from any of these groups.

3. Implement key recommendations of the 2018 Heritage Committee Report:

The Heritage Committee appointed by the Government of Canada under the leadership of MP Hedy Fry to report on systematic racism, religious discrimination and Islamophobia, made some 30 recommendations in 2018. These recommendations included:

- the creation of a coordinated national action plan;
- improved data collection on hate crimes; and
- *the development of new education and training programs.*

To our understanding, this was followed by an updated national Anti-Racism Strategy in 2019, partly in response to the Christchurch Call to Action. However, we have not seen any visible in relation to the public awareness and education programs in the context of countering systemic racism, either through the school system or for some other targeted groups such as law enforcement agencies.

We recommend that a more inclusive and resource-backed education strategy should be initiated and adopted by the Government of Canada, in coordination with the provincial governments.

4. Promote greater coordination with provincial and civic government levels:

We believe that it is only through coordinated action and data sharing among all three levels of government that the desired outcomes of anti-racism and anti-Islamophobia strategies can be achieved. In Alberta, the provincial Government has introduced new plans to create a provincial hate crimes coordination unit. According to the Alberta Justice Minister, Mr. Kaycee Madu, “the goal here is to gather intelligence that will help us to prevent hate-motivated violence before it occurs”.

We would like to inquire what specific coordination and collaboration mechanisms have been put in place by the Government of Canada in monitoring the hate crimes and the establishment of an integrated database in conjunction with the various provincial governments.

5. Provide support for hate victims:

Communities in Edmonton which are directly affected by some of the hate-motivated incidents against Muslim women inform us that there is climate of fear prevalent among the families and their close contacts impacted by these incidents. This also applies to reporting the hate incidents through the local Police forces.

A well-defined policy and plan to support the victims of such hate incidents should go a long way towards encouraging such individuals to not only report such incidents without any fear of indifference or even intimidation by the law enforcement agencies.

Additionally, it will also help ensure that there is a complete database of such incidents at all three levels of government for policy formulation and progress monitoring purposes.

6. Continue to fund Communities at Risk Security Infrastructure Program:

Government of Canada introduced the security infrastructure program several years ago. While many places of worship and related educational institutions have benefitted from this program, we believe that there are still some gaps and timing deficiencies in the execution of this program that the Government should address.

We recommend that Government of Canada continue to support places of worship through the Security Infrastructure Program and publicize the availability of this program among potentially eligible institutions across Canada.

Masood Peracha

Chair, ECMC

July 9, 2021

7. The International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group

Brief to the National Action Summit on Islamophobia

submitted by:

International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group

to:

National Council of Canadian Muslims

July 9, 2021

As a broad-based coalition deeply concerned by the impacts of Islamophobia and other forms of hate and racism in Canada, we are pleased to submit this brief on ways the Canadian government can work to address and counter Islamophobia in our country. We would like to thank the federal

government for answering the call to organize this summit, all those who have worked tirelessly to counter Islamophobia and to make this summit happen, and to the National Council of Canadian Muslims for their work to collect briefs and conduct consultations in the lead up to the summit.

Our coalition's focus is on the impacts of national security and anti-terrorism laws in Canada, and our country's role and actions post 9/11, throughout the War on Terror, and the evolving views on terrorism, extremism and violence today.

We have documented, criticized and proposed solutions to the negative impacts that these laws have had on freedom of speech, association, religion and movement; on privacy; on levels of government surveillance; on the rule of law; on due process and access to justice; and on equality rights.

Throughout all this, we have also seen a deeply problematic and consistent problem of racial, religious and political profiling, abetted by the vague and overreaching definitions of terrorism and national security. Central to this has been the targeting of Muslims, Arabs, and those perceived to be Muslim, although it has also deeply impacted other communities, most notably First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

This undue focus on the so-called "Islamist" threat, espoused even by a former prime minister as being the "greatest" threat to Canada, has led to two decades of state-sanctioned, systemic racism against Muslims in Canada. This systemic racism has had a tangible, negative impact on Muslims living in Canada and around the world.

Much needs to be done to address individual acts of hatred and Islamophobia; however, the role of state systemic (and overtly) Islamophobia must also be clearly and immediately addressed. And while the response to "individual" vs. "systemic" Islamophobia may take different shapes, it is crucial to recognize how one supports the other. Decades of government agencies and officials framing Muslims in Canada and internationally as being the most direct threat to national security – despite a lack of evidence demonstrating that threat, and in ignorance of other more direct threats such as the horrific treatment of Indigenous peoples, the threat of climate change, and increasingly the threat of white supremacist violence – have fed the fears of the public, causing individuals to view their Muslim neighbours and colleagues with fear and suspicion.¹

¹ "Islamophobia in Canada: Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief" (30 Nov. 2020) International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, Islamic Social Services Association, and Noor Cultural Centre. Online: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Religion/Islamophobia-AntiMuslim/Civil%20Society%20or%20Individuals/Noor-ICLMG-ISSA.pdf>

While the responsibility does not lie with the federal government alone – far from it – it plays a powerful role in perpetuating these beliefs, and can play an incredibly important role in countering them.

Over the past two decades, studies by academics and civil rights organizations have repeatedly documented the disproportionate impact of national security measures on Muslim communities. Laws like the *Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015* and the *National Security Act, 2017* have expanded national security powers without adequate transparency and oversight, disproportionately threatening the fundamental rights and freedoms of Muslims.

The laws and policies have resulted in the criminalization and surveillance of Muslim communities in Canada, including:

1. Disproportionate prosecutions:

A comprehensive 2019 study of all terrorism prosecutions in Canada since 2001 found that 98% were against Muslims or defendants linked to Muslim groups; the vast majority did not involve any executed act of violence.² Pre-criminal measures imposing behavioural restrictions, such as “terrorism peace bonds,” have also been overwhelmingly applied against Muslims.³

2. Discrimination and profiling in immigration:

Security certificates and security inadmissibility have both been used to restrict access to Canada, to deport, and even imprison Muslims who are alleged – under broad and often secret evidence – of being linked to terrorism.

3. Targeting via the Terrorist Entities List:

While presented as an impartial tool, the vast majority of groups placed on the Terrorist Entities List have been Islamic or Arab-linked entities, with the sole Canadian listed entity, until recently, being a charity supporting Palestinians and accused on questionable grounds of links to Hamas (the governing party in the Gaza Strip at the time). Only since 2018 have a small number of white supremacist groups have been added – all while listing more entities

² Michael Nesbitt, “An Empirical Study of Terrorism Charges and Terrorism Trials in Canada between September 2001 and September 2018” (2019) *Criminal Law Quarterly*, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3325956.

³ Fahad Ahmad and Jeffrey Monaghan, “From Probabilities to Possibilities: Terrorism Peace Bonds, Pre-Emptive Security, and Modulations of Criminal Law” (2020) 74 *Crime, Law, and Social Change* 341.

linked to “Islamist” terrorism. The result is that the appearance that the primary threat to Canada comes from Muslim or Arabic-linked entities.

4. Racial profiling at the border and while traveling, including the No Fly List:

ICLMG and others have widely documented the racial and religious profiling of Muslims while traveling to, from and even within Canada. In 2014, ICLMG published the *Report of the Information Clearinghouse on Border Controls and Infringements to Travellers’ Rights*, documenting widespread incidences of racial profiling at Canada’s borders and airports based on national security and anti-terrorism suspicions, the vast majority being Muslim individuals.⁴ More recently, Nagra and Maurutto have documented the impacts of no-fly lists on Canadian Muslims, finding “the Canadian no-fly list targets Muslim communities, restricts mobility, separates individuals from family and friends, diminishes professional and economic opportunities, and stigmatizes those labelled a security risk,” and concluding that “how no-fly lists erode fundamental aspects of justice, and reproduce racial hierarchies.”⁵

5. The prejudiced targeting of Muslim charities:

Two new reports, one from the National Council of Canadian Muslims and the Institute for Islamic Studies at the University of Toronto, and another from the ICLMG, demonstrate how the Canada Revenue Agency targets Muslim charities for review and audit based on unsupported suspicions of engaging in terrorist financing. This has led to the penalization and even revocation of leading Muslim charities in Canada, often on untested and weak allegations of engagement in terrorist financing. According to ICLMG’s research, the vast majority of charities that have faced revocation through this process are Muslim charities, raising questions of profiling and prejudiced targeting in the CRA’s efforts to counter terrorist financing.⁶

6. Information sharing and complicity in mistreatment abroad:

Canada’s weak rules on information sharing with foreign agencies has led to the detention, mistreatment and torture of primarily Muslim men in foreign countries. Canadian intelligence agencies have also taken advantage of unlawful detention to question Canadians,

⁴ International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, “Report of the Information Clearinghouse on Border Controls and Infringements to Travellers’ Rights” (2014), online at: <https://iclmg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/R-Clearinghouse-border-controls.pdf>

⁵ Baljit Nagra and Paula Maurutto, “No-Fly Lists, National Security and Race: The Experiences of Canadian Muslims” (2020) 60(3) *British Journal of Criminology*, [10.1093/bjc/azz066](https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azz066).

⁶ Anver Emon and Nadian Hasan, “Under Layered Suspicion” (2021), *NCCM and Institute of Islamic Studies*, online at: <https://www.layeredsuspicion.ca/>; and Tim McSorley, “The CRA’s Prejudiced Audits” (2021), *ICLMG*, online at: <https://www.iclmg.ca/prejudiced-audits>.

when doing so at home would not have been possible. While new rules have been put in place on information sharing and foreign mistreatment, a recently released report from NSIRA shows significant gaps and inconsistencies across departments that raise significant questions.⁷

7. Harassment of Muslim students on campus:

Concerns around CSIS and the RCMP approaching Muslim students on campus have widely been reported, causing fear and suspicion. “In many cases, the interactions have led executives or members to leave the organization over concerns about repercussions for their future careers,” reported the CBC.⁸ Lead to creation of hotline at the University of Toronto's Institute of Islamic Studies in partnership with the Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association and the National Council of Canadian Muslims.

The repercussions of these laws and activities are real and are devastating:

- Maher Arar: rendered by the United States to Syria and tortured, based on false information shared by Canadian officials.
- Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad El Maati & Muayyed Nureddin: Arrested abroad, all three ended up in Syrian prisons where they were also tortured, again based on false information shared by Canadian officials.
- Omar Khadr: A child soldier captured by US forces in Afghanistan, detained and tortured in Guantanamo Bay. While there he was questioned by CSIS agents.
- Aboufian Abdelrazik: Harassed by CSIS in Canada, he was arrested on their request by Sudanese agents while visiting his sick mother. While detained, he was mistreated and tortured, and following his release was blocked from returning to Canada until a federal court judge ordered the government to act.
- Hassan Diab: Canadian professor accused on weak evidence of bombing a synagogue in France in 1980. It has been revealed that Canadian officials did not reveal exculpatory evidence at extradition, leading to three years in prison in France without charge or trial. Eventually released due to both a lack of incriminating evidence, but as well as exculpatory evidence that places him in Lebanon at the time of the bombing.
- No Fly List Kids: Children as young as a few years old being flagged for being on the “No Fly List” despite their age. While this affected people of all ages, and from various communities, its primary impact has been on Muslim individuals, unable to fly in safety out

⁷ National Security and Intelligence Review Agency, “Review Of Departmental Implementation Of The Avoiding Complicity In Mistreatment By Foreign Entities Act For 2019” (16 Dec. 2020) *Government of Canada*. Online at: https://www.nsira-ossnr.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NSIRA_Review_2020-03-1.pdf

⁸ Shanifa Nasser, “When CSIS comes knocking: Amid reports of Muslim students contacted by spy agency, hotline aims to help” (7 August 2019), CBC News. Online at: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/csis-students-university-muslim-campus-1.5229670>

of fear of delays, detention, or even arrest both in Canada and internationally. While efforts have been made to resolve the issue of “false positives”, concerns about the list itself, who is listed, and the disproportionate impact on Muslims remain.

- Secret trial five: Adil Charkaoui, Hassan Almrei, Mahmoud Jaballah, Mohamed Harkat and Mohammad Mahjoub all spent years in prison, and under extreme release conditions, without being charged with a crime while been placed under security certificates. Harkat and Mahjoub continue to fight their security certificates and against deportation to Algeria and Egypt, respectively, where they both face threats of persecution, mistreatment and even torture.
- Canadians detained in NE Syria: Forty-three Canadians remain detained indefinitely in dangerous conditions in camps and prisons in North Eastern Syria, accused of participating or supporting Daesh. However, none have faced charges or trial, and the number include more than 20 children. Canada has refused to proactively work to repatriate them to Canada.

It is no mistake that this list is nearly completely comprised of Muslims, or people assumed to be Muslim, as well as primarily men. This is the legacy of Canada’s anti-terrorism policies and activities: the systemic profiling and criminalization of people practicing the Muslim faith.

It is urgent that if the federal government wishes to address Islamophobia that it reconsider and move away from the disastrous policies of the “War on Terror.”

Efforts to expand the definition of terrorism, or to reform Canada’s anti-terrorism approach, will unfortunately not lead to the necessary changes. It is imperative to forego the entire framework of anti-terrorism and to rescind rights violating laws because of problem inherent to the vague and malleable nature of “terrorism.”

The definition itself of “terrorism” is subject to controversy. It is almost impossible to reach consensus on it precisely because to say that some crimes are terrorist acts and some not is to make a judgment about the motive behind a crime. And that judgment will necessarily depend on the social, racial, religious, political or historical perspective of the people making the judgment. Using motive in this manner, as an essential element in defining and identifying a crime, is foreign to criminal law, humanitarian law, and the law regarding crimes against humanity.

It is, therefore, never possible to create a definition of “terrorism” that is not either over-inclusive or under-inclusive. It can be over-inclusive in that it captures ordinary crimes, civil disobedience, or the justified use of force against oppressive governments and occupations. It can be under-inclusive in that it excludes serious crimes and attacks against civilians that ought logically to be included, but are not, on purely political grounds. It will therefore always be vulnerable to problems such as racial, religious and political profiling, including perpetuating systemic Islamophobia.

Instead, what is needed is greater transparency and accountability, as well as concrete legislative reform.

First, in regards to transparency and accountability:

1. Collection of disaggregated race-based data

In 2011, the Canadian Human Rights Commission called for the collection and analysis of disaggregated racial data in Canada's national security activities to be able to establish their impact on various communities. This demand has never been met, despite other sectors recognizing the importance and need to collect and analyze this type of data in order to better understand impacts on racialized and other communities. While there is ample evidence from other studies and reviews about the disproportionate impact of national security laws on Muslims in Canada and their contribution to Islamophobia, this collection and analysis would still provide valuable information.

2. Resources and reforms for review and oversight agencies

The federal government has brought in new review and oversight bodies since 2018, including the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians, the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency and the Intelligence Commissioner, and has recognized the importance of the Privacy Commissioner in national security review as well. However, strengthening in four ways could help root out structural Islamophobia

- a. The government must create a dedicated review body for the Canada Border Services Agency; allow for national security related issues to be referred to NSIRA; and create an independent mechanism allowing the public to file complaints regarding the CBSA's conduct.
- b. The federal government must expand the mandate of NSIRA to accept complaints regarding, at a minimum, departments that interact with public regarding national security, including Global Affairs, CBSA and the CRA.
- c. Commensurate with these additional powers, the government must increase the resources provided to these bodies, and evaluate the adequacy of these resources on a regular and ongoing basis.

3. Binding recommendations and clear accountability

Allow review bodies to make binding recommendations and mandate agencies to proactively present clear, public reports on responses to review body recommendations. Currently, it is too easy for agencies to accept, but then ignore or implement in incomplete ways the recommendations of review bodies, with little accountability or follow-up.

There are also at least three concrete policy and legislative changes the federal government could make:

1. First, it must put an end to rights-violating anti-terrorism laws that can be used in ways which target and profile the Muslim community. This includes the Terrorist Entities List, the Passenger Protect Program/Safe Air Travel Act, and security certificates. Instead, other criminal code provisions that are not based on the use of secret evidence or selective definitions of terrorism can be used to prosecute individuals who present a threat to the safety of people in Canada. We would also argue that investment in social resources, anti-poverty, and education programs would present positive approaches to ensuring a safer and more secure society for all.
2. The federal government must put an end to the prejudiced and targeted audits of Muslim charities under the guise of combatting terrorist financing in the charitable sector. The government's activities in this area, particularly carried out by the Review and Analysis Division and guided by the 2015 National Risk Assessment, have resulted in the profiling of the Muslim community and have perpetuated systemic Islamophobia. Current audits must be suspended, current practices must be independently investigated, policy and laws must be reformed, and new directives must be put in place.
3. As with current conversations around the role of law enforcement in society, the same questions must be posed to Canada's national security and intelligence agencies. The government must re-examine and re-allocate resources away from a national security response to responses that promote mental and physical health and well-being and combat exclusion.

Another area where the government could take significant action to break from systemic Islamophobia is on individual cases. While action on case would not undo the whole system, it can demonstrate and make clear a change in approach and a concrete willingness to move forward.

These would include:

1. Lifting the last two security certificates and deportation proceedings faced by Mohamed Harkat and Mohammad Mahjoub.
2. Resolve the case of Aboufian Abdelrazik and apologize for the Canadian government's role in his mistreatment.

3. Take action to safely repatriate all Canadians currently detained in North Eastern Syria.
4. Call on the French government to end all proceedings against Dr. Hassan Diab and commit to no new extradition.

Doing all of this can have a significant impact on reducing state-sponsored Islamophobia.

Finally, we must address the issue of how to counter individual acts of Islamophobia. Taking action on systemic issues of Islamophobia is one important approach. However, we must consider Canada's approach to individual acts of hate, and particularly instances of violence by white supremacists and other hate based groups.

It is clearly urgent that the government act, especially given that the two most violent attacks in recent Canadian history have been on Canadian Muslims.

However, we are concerned that the approach be based on Canada's current counter-terrorism framework and anti-terrorism laws. For all the reasons listed above, Canada's approach to anti-terrorism has served to entrench and worsen systemic and overt Islamophobia in our country. While expanding those same practices to combat acts of violence committed by white supremacists can be seen as justified and even effective in the short-term, in the long-run it serves to further entrench these laws. While they may be used in a way seen as positive at the moment, it serves to justify their past and future use, including in ways that racially profile, criminalize and persecute Muslims.

While it requires and deserves a longer discussion, we would instead propose focusing on areas of the criminal code that can be used to combat violent and illegal acts towards Muslims but that which are not predicated on rights-violating approaches such as the use of secret evidence, expanded state surveillance, subjective and secretive border controls, or anti-terrorism laws predicated on this framework, such as the Terrorist Entities List, the Passenger Protect Program (No Fly List) and security certificates.

Thank you for considering our proposals. Should you have further questions, we would be happy to discuss and expand on them.

8. Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

INTRODUCTION: This submission from the Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (MANAL) includes two clusters of recommendations. The first one directly concerns the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) but can also inform municipal and federal levels of governments in their actions against Islamophobia.

They are drawn from provincial recommendations which have been developed since late 2017 and first issued in 2019 by the Addressing Islamophobia in NL Project where MANAL served as a lead community partner / collaborator / key informant. The second cluster includes additional recommendations presented by MANAL in October 2017 before the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. These were included in the Committee's Report: "Taking Action Against Systemic Racism and Religious Discrimination including Islamophobia".

I- PROVINCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NL: We call on the Government of NL, including all departments, services, boards, commissions, and agencies under provincial jurisdiction (the Province) to take leadership on addressing racism and Islamophobia. We recommend that:

1. The Province develop a multi year Anti-Racist/Anti-Islamophobia (AR/AI) Action Plan which outlines the Province's specific commitments to addressing Islamophobia and racism in NL. This plan should include:
 - a. Clear statement of commitment to anti-racism and anti-Islamophobia. We recommend Islamophobia to be defined as a fear and/or hatred of Islam and Muslims (and those perceived as Muslim) that translates into everyday individual, ideological, systemic, and inter-sectional forms of xenophobia and racism. Islamophobia must be understood as anti-Muslim racism and discrimination, and as integral to processes of racism and racialization.
 - b. The establishment of Provincial AR/AI Action Plan Steering Committee, which includes the Province's departmental and agency heads, as well as community members from organizations who have taken leadership in anti-racism and anti-Islamophobia in NL. (MANAL welcomes the establishment of a Ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism in late spring of 2021 as a long overdue initial step and looks forward to being an integral part of its work)
 - c. Intensive anti-racist and anti-Islamophobia training for all members of the AR/AI Action Plan Steering Committee (or the Ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism)
 - d. A report of the progress of the AR/AI Steering Committee's (or the Ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism) Action Plan
 - e. Bi-annual reporting of the Province's actions taken to address Islamophobia and other forms of racism and discrimination.
 - f. A full AR/AI Action Plan (with a timeline) should be launched as soon as possible.
 - g. A plan to promote community and academic work that seeks to monitor and challenge discrimination and racism in Newfoundland and Labrador via the Addressing Islamophobia website and/or other such social media.
 - h. Increased support for the Province's Human Rights Commission to better respond to allegations of systemic and individual acts of racism and discrimination within the Province's departments and agencies.
 - i. The creation of brochures (in hard copy and online). These would provide information on how individuals can strategically intervene (as allies) to systemic and individual racism, discrimination, including Islamophobia. Examples from workplaces, schools, and other public spaces are recommended.
 - j. To strengthen anti-Islamophobia, anti-racism, anti-discrimination and intervention training and education for all public service employees and for members of all organizations funded by the Province through an education and outreach unit within the Human Rights Commission.
 - k. Engagement of community groups and organizations across NL in facilitated conversations about racism, Islamophobia, and the history of colonialism in Newfoundland and Labrador.
 - l. A strategy to increase the representation of Indigenous and racialized communities on provincial boards, commissions, agencies, and committees.
 - m. A

strategy to increase racial and cultural diversity among employees of the Province including the provincial government and its Crown corporations, private sector, and others. n. The development of community-engaged public-education campaigns about the experiences of racism and Islamophobia for people who are experiencing multiple forms of discrimination and oppression (for example, disability, ageism, and people who are experiencing economic and social precarity).

2. The Province fund the NL Human Rights Commission and the Anti-Racism Coalition of NL to monitor and report on the prevalence and effects of incidents of racist, Islamophobic and other forms of cultural and religious discrimination in Newfoundland and Labrador, through: a. An anonymous and online reporting forum, in collaboration with the Anti-Racism Coalition of NL, the NL Human Rights Commission, and community groups affected by racism, Islamophobia and other forms of cultural and religious discrimination. b. A public education campaign that encourages the use of and promotes the online reporting forum (see 2a above). c. Research which compiles existing data about racism and Islamophobia in NL through existing sources, such as from the National Coalition of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) and the NL Human Rights Commission. d. Ask researchers in the province with demonstrated expertise in, and/or lived experience of racism, anti-racism, and Islamophobia, to conduct a study and prepare a report on the lived experience and prevalence of racism, Islamophobia, and other forms of cultural and religious discrimination in NL.

3. The Province take leadership in promoting anti-racism and anti-Islamophobia in all sectors through public education, collaborative community discussions, and government policy. We call on the Province to specifically provide leadership in the following sectors: 3A. PUBLIC EDUCATION The Province should: a. Promote anti-racism, inclusion, reconciliation, and positive representations of marginalized communities throughout the education system from kindergarten to post-secondary. b. Provide educators with anti-racism, anti-Islamophobia, anti-oppression, and bystander-intervention training. Such training would equip and provide the tools for creating more inclusive educational environments. c. Encourage students to report Islamophobic and racist bullying at all levels of schooling from kindergarten to post-secondary. d. Direct funding to primary, secondary and post-secondary institutions for school and on-campus support groups, resource centers and racialized community spaces. e. Foster partnerships between educators and front-line community organizations to reach out to children and youth whose access to education is adversely affected by bullying and violence or discriminatory discipline policies or practices.

3B. HOUSING AND PLANNING The Province should: a. Engage with Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized communities to uncover and address systemic barriers that have a discriminatory effect on these communities. b. Engage with Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized communities to uncover and address marginalization of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. c. Develop an anti-racism working group of members of racialized and Indigenous communities, community organizations, landlords and social housing

providers. Such a group would recommend equitable policies and practices in areas such as tenant-selection processes and criteria for selection, consistent with human-rights principles.

3C. POLICE SERVICES The Province should work with police services to: a. Consult with local communities to hear concerns and receive input on response measures regarding racism and Islamophobia. b. Support Police and Crime Commissioners in ensuring appropriate resources are allocated for tackling hate crime effectively at the local level. c. Establish or enhance a comprehensive anti-racism and anti-discrimination vision statement and implement effective policies and procedures (including a complaints mechanism). d. Establish staff training to help prevent and respond to issues of racism and discrimination in policing services and in the community. e. Ensure appropriate representation of Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized groups in recruitment and at all levels of the organization. f. Establish a community working group with representation from Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized community organizations to develop and implement a framework for a policy on race-based data collection and analysis.

3D. HEALTH SERVICES The Province should: a. Ensure that the legislation that govern the professions include anti-Islamophobia, anti-racism, anti-oppression, and cultural safety/competency training and regular policy/practice reviews. b. Consult regularly with local Muslim, Indigenous and racialized communities, as well as the Anti-Racism Coalition-NL, the NL Human Rights Commission, and other groups to discuss any concerns and/or complaints as they arise. c. Increase the inclusion of diverse ways of healing to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized patients/clients. d. Establish or enhance a comprehensive anti-racism and anti-discrimination vision statement. e. Implement effective policies and procedures (including a complaints mechanism), as well as a commitment to pursue mandatory staff training to help prevent and respond to issues of racism and discrimination in health services and in the community. f. Increase employment opportunities for Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized peoples among healthcare providers, and to provide support to those individuals so they may thrive while employed in healthcare.

3E. MEDIA The Province should seek to work with media outlets and regulators to: a. Intervene more proactively in cases of alleged discriminatory reporting. Encourage anti-oppression, anti-racism, anti-Islamophobia, and other forms of training to examine biases and stereotyping in reporting and the media's role in perpetuating racism and Islamophobia. b. Ensure that the perspectives of Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized people are represented in reporting, broadcasting, and publishing. c. Center Muslim, Indigenous and other racialized voices in matters pertaining to racial justice. d. Increase employment opportunities and supports for Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized peoples within media.

3F. LABOR FORCE AND WORKPLACE The Province should: a. Create more awareness and action to address barriers to equal labor-market participation, particularly as related to racism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia. b. Encourage all employers to make potential workplace accommodations, and to develop and implement non-discriminatory policies and

practices as a requirement for licensing applications and/or renewal. c. Make licensing renewals conditional upon evidence of non-discriminatory policies and practices. d. Work with all employers, including labor unions and professional bodies, to develop and adequately implement inter-sectional anti-racism, anti-Islamophobia, anti-xenophobia, and anti-discrimination action plans.

3G. LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS The Province should: a. Liaise with the NL Human Rights Commission, the Anti-Racism Coalition of NL, other community organizations, and the legal community to develop a plan to facilitate prevention, interventions, and remedies for those who experience racism, Islamophobia, and discrimination. b. Increase the mandate of, and funding to, the NL Human Rights Commission to engage with community organizations and diverse communities in developing appropriate anti-Islamophobia and anti-racism initiatives across all sectors of the province. c. Train, hire and retain lawyers who have expertise in human rights and immigration, particularly in Legal Aid. d. Designate January 29th as the “National Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia”, as part of a nation-wide initiative. (Such a designation is already made by the federal government and the City of St. John’s but not yet by the NL provincial government)

II- ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. Creating a national registry to record all hateful incidents involving Islamophobia and other forms of racial and religious discrimination.

2. Introducing mandatory awareness and training programs for the public as well as service providers working in various sectors including the media, education, health, social work, justice and public safety, and law enforcement. These programs need to be developed in cooperation with grassroots organizations such as Muslim Associations. They also need to be made a regular, consistent, and mandatory component of school curriculum and of the annual training of professionals working in these sectors.

3. Developing and introducing programs to support victims of Islamophobia and to protect vulnerable ones who are yet to experience it. These programs too need to be developed in cooperation with grass root organizations including Muslim Associations.

4. Introducing and implementing appropriate tools that would promote equity and inclusion and eliminate racial and religious barriers to employment. In that context, we need to use an equity lens to undertake diversity and equity analysis in our budget preparation.

9. The Canadian Arab Institute

The Canadian Arab Institute (CAI) works in partnership with organizations that serve marginalized communities to combat hate against racialized groups in Canada. Due to the historic and ongoing dehumanization and stereotyping of Arabs in Canada, Arabs face deep-rooted Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism. Indeed, a form of Anti-Arab Racism is Islamophobia and vice versa. Please find below outlined general policy recommendations from our research:

Research

- More funding opportunities for research to learn what Islamophobia looks like in different Muslim communities, such as the Arab one, and how to combat the different forms that it takes.
- The CAI is committed to understanding the shapes and forms of Islamophobia in our own community, but also in others in order to have a collaborative, cross-sectoral, and united approach across the many Muslim communities that exist in Canada.

Legislation

- Pass legislation condemning QC's Bill 21.
- Call for a special session specifically to advance the parliamentary procedures of Bill C-36 to turn it into an Act before a potential election is called.

Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy

- Given that a large portion of the Arab community are Muslim, anti-Arab racism and its connections to Islamophobia needs to be explicitly defined and acknowledged within Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy, with the help of community organizations, like CAI.

Reporting

- Fund third-party reporting mechanisms of Islamophobic acts, so that community members can feel more comfortable reporting. This mechanism should be available in Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi, etc., and the data that comes out of it should be publicly released.

Education

- In consultation with community organizations, introduce anti-Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism curricula in education systems across all provinces and territories in Canada.
- Invest in toolkits that can be created and used by community organizations, such as CAI, to help raise awareness on the impact of Islamophobia across all groups in Canada.

10. Ecohesion

Dear NCCM & The National Action Summit on Islamophobia, As-salaamu 'alaikum wa rahmat-Allahi wa barakaatuh, May you and we all be safe and your admirable crucial efforts be accepted with the highest rewards to flourish for generations to come. At this time, Disaster Management Specialists led by Racialized Muslim Women with Disabilities, we recommend the following tangible actions to address and end Islamophobia, brainstormed with expertise in this field and with community engagement (with more recommendations to follow shortly):

1. Dismantling the roots of hate. Education (mandatory, curriculum development, etc.), humanizing the dehumanized campaigns, etc → Federal, Provincial (Education), Municipal
2. Criminalize & enforce criminal charges for online Anti-Muslim Hate → Federal, Provincial, Municipal
3. Increase the SIP fund (security for vulnerable communities). Fully cover resources, training, emergency planning, disaster management, security, and accessible emergency management egress renovations for Muslim communities vulnerable to hate crimes. Short term and long term: fully fund self-defense training for Muslim Women and people

vulnerable to hate crimes. With barrier-free accessibility. → Federal, with additional Provincial and Municipal funding

4. Criminalize & enforce heavy punishment for criminal Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes and Islamophobic Terrorist Attacks → Federal, Provincial, Municipal 5. Designate and ban all Anti-Muslim Hate Islamophobic groups as terrorist groups. Not just hate proliferating groups. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal

6. Criminalize political Islamophobia party platforms. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal

7. Divest from and disqualify any and all entity engaging in Anti-Muslim Hate. Including politicians, etc. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal

8. Mandatory training of authorities to dismantle Anti-Muslim leanings. Defund the police and refund dismantling hate. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal

9. Overturn Bill 21. Revisit Islamophobic target of Bill 51. → Federal, Provincial

10. Enforce the Anti-Islamophobia bill. With appropriate punishment. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal

11. Investigate all authorities involved in having Canada's carceral system (cops, rcmp, etc.) trained Israeli military re. excessive force. And how this murdered Soleiman Faqiri, multiple Black & Muslim & Indigenous Peoples, and many more. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal

12. Grants & scholarships for media and film led by Muslims. Representation matters in dismantling hate. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal 14. Barrier-free accessible public safety → fully cover resources, training, emergency planning, disaster management, security, and accessible emergency management egress renovations for Muslim communities vulnerable to hate crimes. Including Masaajid, Islamic Centres, Schools, Women's Shelters, etc. With mandatory inclusion and consultation of Racialized Muslim Women with Hijab / Niqab / Burqa / etc. and Muslims with Disabilities to ensure the most vulnerable do not get left behind. With added funds and incentive for accessibility retrofitting, design, disaster management, led by Muslims and in particular Muslim Women with Disabilities → Fed (SIP Grant), Provincial, Municipal. Both short term and long term.

14. Short term and long term: fully fund self-defense training for Muslim Women and people vulnerable to hate crimes. With barrier-free accessibility. → Municipal, Provincial, Federal

15. Increased funding for Muslim Women-Led and Muslim Disability-Led capacity building → Federal, Provincial, Municipal

16. Significantly increase the \$300,000 allocated for public school curriculum re anti-Islamophobia. Also make it mandatory in the private school curriculum. → Short term and long term Federal, Provincial, Municipal.

17. Return into the curriculum TRC and mandatory learning of ongoing colonization and genocide of Indigenous Peoples of Kanata / Ganadaa / Canada and Turtle Island. How this directly ties into anti-Muslim hate. How the roots of historical colonization and ongoing systemic colonization and genocide upon Indigenous Peoples of Kanata / Ganada / "Canada", Turtle Island, are intrinsically linked with often the same roots of Anti-Muslim Islamophobia: White Supremacist xenophobic prejudice, hate, hate crimes, with overt, subtle, explicit, implicit, bias leading to various forms of Anti-Indigenous Hate and Anti-Muslim Hate, including systemic colonization and systemic Islamophobia in Canada.

18. Grants for media and film narratives led by Muslims. Representation matters in humanizing the dehumanized to dismantle the roots of hate. Short & Long-Term - Federal, Provincial, Municipal.
19. CRTC: regulating air time & radio time for more diverse humanizing narratives & representation
20. Weapons control. (Sadly, Canada's gun control etc is still lacking) → Federal, Provincial, Municipal
- 21: Galvanize anti-Islamophobic hate speech bill. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal 22: Increased resources for reporting Islamophobic hate, hate speech, signs of radicalization - increased resources for investigating and laying charges. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal 23. Hold social media, internet, phone companies more accountable for the sharing / proliferation of hate speech, broadcasting (NZ attack), etc. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal
- 24: Scholarships for higher education among marginalized communities → Federal, Provincial (education), Municipal
25. Increasing accountability & reporting microaggressions in various systems. Education, work, public engagement, etc. → Federal, Provincial, Municipal
27. Mandatory inclusion, consultation, and participatory governance decision making and grant design with the most vulnerable Racialized Muslim Women and Muslims with Disabilities. We look forward to following up and offer our support and expertise in this field to galvanize NCCM and our shared vulnerable communities. BaarakAllahu feekum, jazaakum Allahu khairan.
- With warm regards, thanks, and appreciation,

Aasiya Hussain CEO, Ecohesian

11. York Region Muslims

As Salamu Alaykum, On behalf of York Region Muslims, a community non profit organization representing many diverse mainstream Muslims, we are concerned and deeply troubled by the level of anti-Muslim hate and Islamophobia embedded within systems and minds throughout Canada. The perpetuation of intolerance and hatred toward Muslims in Canada is rooted in systems that benefit from Islamophobia and anti-Muslim rhetoric. The tendency for political leaders, media and so-called "experts" in discussing the term "Islamophobia" itself as a questionable term in reference to a hatred of peoples who openly follow the Islamic faith, is in and of itself a form of Islamophobia. For example, recently CBC news' Nastasha Fatah, daughter of Islamophobic columnist for 'The Sun', Tarek Fatah, hosted a guest who tried to discredit the term "Islamophobia". CBC allowed this discussion on live TV only days following an attack on a Muslim family that left 4 dead and a 9 year old boy orphaned. Yet, sports icon Don Cherry was fired immediately, rightly so, for his live on air rant of BIPOC and immigrant communities, referring to these groups as "you people". Such irresponsible media discourse only serves to create more intolerance and fear of Muslims as not deserving of labels depicting our being targeted due to our faith. The fear of Muslims who follow the Islamic faith, a fear of "Shariah Law taking over" and a fear of the visibility of Muslims across western nations are not rational fears and as such, these fears

must be unpacked and proactively addressed within mainstream media, government (political), institutional and educational systems. Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate has led to the murders of innocent followers of the Islamic faith in towns and cities across Canada, in places that should have been safe and protected. When Muslims are not guaranteed the same level of consideration and protection as other communities, we are further dehumanized and made to seem "strange" or "different", and this "otherization" is entrenched in systems that benefit from Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate. Canada's foreign policy plays directly in the Islamophobia machine. The constant churning of the idea that terrorism and those who are labelled "terrorist" can only be attributed to followers of the Islamic faith must end, the perpetuation of terminology leading to the dehumanization of Muslims, their legitimate concerns here in Canada and around the world, and the systemic silencing of voices that call for justice, freedom and accountability, are all problematic and must be addressed in the Islamophobia discourse in this country. Our York Region Muslims community would like to see the following actions taken by our governments in leading a new and much needed approach to protect and uplift the diverse Muslim communities of Canada, who have given so much to the economic, social, political, cultural and academic vibrancy of this country: 1) Take the recommendations of NCCM and other Muslim advocacy organizations seriously and with determination to work to disrupt, dismantle and legislate acts of Islamophobia and anti Muslim hate. 2) All staff in governments and its agencies, school boards, corporations, social service and media organizations should be audited for anti-racism and anti-immigrant policy and initiatives where their commitment to disrupting and dismantling bigotry, xenophobia, and all forms of hate directed to BIPOC and immigrant communities within their organizations must be documented, reporting systems for staff to have a safe space to identify acts of discrimination or hate within their employment systems must be established, and staff exhibiting Islamophobic, anti-Muslim hate or hate directed at any BIPOC, faith-based, or immigrant staff members must be held accountable, the incident documented in their employment file and restorative actions taken as soon as possible, or in more serious events, reported as a hate crime immediately. 3) Media outlets and online platforms are a significant source of perpetuating myths, stereotypes, and hatred toward Muslims in Canada and around the world. Right wing conservative ideologies here in Canada and around the world have seeped into mainstream discourse and have been increasingly tolerated since 9/11. The protection of Muslims has not been a priority for any level of government in Canada, and as the murders of Muslim families over the last few years have indicated, it must absolutely be a priority to demand that such platforms are held accountable for the role they play in perpetuating Islamophobia in this country. 4) Hold lobby groups who advocate against Muslims accountable, especially as they seek to dehumanize the legitimate concerns and grievances of Muslims in Canada over human rights and international law violations of their fellow Muslims around the world. 5) Stand for the freedoms and rights of the indigenous populations in Canada, a subjugated, oppressed and dehumanized community, because without their grievances appropriately addressed, the grievances of Muslims, BIPOC and immigrant communities cannot be adequately addressed and supported. When one group is oppressed and dehumanized, we are all oppressed and dehumanized as part of the "otherization" strategy we see in our Canadian systems. 6) Disrupt and dismantle the disease of settler colonialism ideologies and

white supremacy in all systems through legislation and laws that ban and criminalize acts of supremacy leading to hate, dehumanization of any group of people in Canada and violence targeted at such groups. 7) Take a bold and strong stand in addressing Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate within your political systems and leadership, including provincial and municipal governments through the amendment of policy and legislation holding all forms of government accountable within the federal government's constitutional realm. It is unacceptable that in Canada in 2021, citizens of faith are not able to wear their religious symbols unless it is of the Christian faith. 8) Re-evaluate Canada's foreign policy in particular as it relates to countries where Muslims are oppressed, persecuted, violently targeted and where human rights and international laws are repeatedly being violated. Weapons and arms sales, economic sanctions and calling out such governments that do not abide by international and human rights laws must be consistently upheld as when they are perceived to be only highlighted for some groups and not others, the result is the dehumanization of some groups which directly impacts the racism, bigotry, xenophobia and Islamophobia machine and allows it to continue churning, including within Canada. We will be sending separately a few more submissions based on our York Region Muslims community consultations. Jazak Allahu Khairin, Sheneeza Kanji York Region Muslims

12. **United MusliMs Association**

We are submitting our recommendations as public servants working in the Ontario Public Service for an internal employee network called the United MusliMs Association ('UMMA' or 'the Association'). UMMA is an employee network for Muslim professionals and their allies. Together we fulfill the needs of Muslim public servants in the OPS. Our recommendations is not on behalf of the Ontario Public Service. We are participating as an internal group to share our network ideas and perspectives in support of the National Action Summit on Islamophobia. (see our recommendations below) Government Accountability: • Develop and implement an impartial official public office at all levels of government that would investigate complaints against businesses, financial institutions, universities, government departments, or other public entities, to resolve the conflicts or concerns surrounding incidents of racism and Islamophobia. • Continue to condemn Islamophobia publicly and proactively. • Apply an Anti-Racist lens to public speeches, social media posts, government motions, policies, and legislation that directly lead to or indirectly fuel Islamophobia. Education: • Ensure that a clear-cut definition of Islamophobia that has been co-developed with the Muslim community is adopted at all levels of government. • Fund mass-media campaigns that challenge Islamophobic perceptions and increase positive representation of Muslims. These campaigns should be led or co-created by Muslim content creators. • Mandate education for Public Sector Management teams and Government Leaders on Anti-Islamophobia and make additional resources available through Employee Assistance Programs. • Provide ongoing education to the public about what constitutes as a hate crime against the Muslim population in an ongoing effort to encourage community support and comfort. Social Inclusions: • Normalize Muslim practices in everyday public environments through means of infrastructure space for prayers and recognition of high holidays in legislation. • Recognize the need to provide the space and ability for Muslims to practice their religious obligations in the work environment as a Human Right based on

religious grounds and enforced through the Human Rights Tribunals. • Create a safe learning environment for Muslim youth in schools through a conscious effort to educate on skills and methods of positive allyship. Socio-Economic Reforms: • Improve the Muslim community's access to culturally relevant mental health supports that are delivered in partnership with Muslim mental health professionals. • Ensure that social services are aware of culturally relevant supports for the Muslim community that at-risk Muslim clients can be referred to without the threat of Islamophobic encounters (e.g., Foodbanks with halal options, Muslim legal associations and services, etc.) • Create hiring programs that would enable Muslim students to access and obtain employment opportunities in sectors where IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and People of Colour), including Muslims, are under-represented (e.g., the public service, etc.) Policing: • Provide Muslim organizations, including mosques, schools, and workplaces with educational tools and resources that inform them of their rights in dealing with the police. • Create a national policing standard that helps policing authorities at all levels of government build healthy relationships with the Muslim community. • Create a policing/community board that would meet annually to discuss current issues and planning around anti-Islamophobia initiatives. This would see participation from municipal, provincial, and federal policing counterparts in addition to Muslim community leaders and organizations. • Train police officers on Anti-Islamophobia and ensure local safety plans are created to support and protect the Muslim community.

13. Women's Mosque of Canada

The Voices and Concerns of Muslim Women & The Need to Take Action Submitted by: Imama & Co-Founder, Farheen Khan, Women's Mosque of Canada on behalf of the Women's Mosque of Canada Committee, Board & Members. (A list of Women's Mosque Advisors can be provided upon request) Date/time of submission: 4:45PM EST, July 9, 2021 The Women's Mosque of Canada represents 250+ Muslim women across Canada.

At this time, we are deeply concerned about the ongoing atrocities faced by the Muslim community with respect to islamophobia and its impact on Muslim Women within and outside of our community by those who are misconceived to be Muslim e.g. Women of Sikh heritage The current situation at hand continues to be on the rise, we are seeing consistent stories of attacks of Muslim women and the impact of this is and continues to be detrimental on both the health and well-being of Muslim women from a physical, spiritual, and emotional perspective.

At the Women's Mosque of Canada our primary focus has been and continues to be walking at the intersection of Violence Against Women in all of its forms including Gendered Islamophobia.

We collectively as Muslim Women from across Canada who are deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of our sisters, Muslim Women and our ally sisters who are impacted negatively as a result are asking the Federal government for the following: \$10M of additional funding annually through the Status of Women Canada & Canadian Heritage for awareness building and support services required to change the discourse around the safety of Muslim Women as they walk on the streets of our country. The funds should be given to women led, women serving organizations that

are assessed and approved through a Muslim Women's Collective made up of Muslim Women that are appointed for this purpose. The women should represent the diversity of Muslim Women within community. Often with government funding faith based organizations can be excluded from such conversations, however in order to really support Muslim Women, it is essential that Muslim Women led and Women serving both faith and community based institutions and groups are engaged and are leading the way in finding appropriate solutions that are culturally and religiously relevant to our communities.

How the Mosque can Play a Role Moving Forward:

The Women's Mosque of Canada as the first and only Muslim Women's Mosque in Canada is proposing that it can play a key role in supporting Muslim women across Canada as we continue to advocate for women's safety and gender equality within and outside the faith. Our primary concern has always been and continues to be to create a safe space for Muslim women where they can heal, connect and speak. Our primary audience is Muslim Women ages 22-46 that are often survivors of gendered islamophobia and gender-based violence. As the most vulnerable targets of islamophobia, it's time that our voices are heard and that the space is created for us to speak and for those in power to listen and act. The above mentioned proposal is a tangible and meaningful way to make change happen at a systemic level as well as within community.

Our Mosque Advisors and Board are currently made up of senior level consultants, academics as well as legal professionals. We would be pleased to setup a meeting for further discussions and can be reached by way of email at info@womensmosque.ca

Appendix B

Community Consultation Notes

1. Canadian Council of Muslim Women Community Consultation for the National Action Summit on Islamophobia

July 7, 2021

Group 1: Federal Governments

Our communities have been saying that the time for words is over, and that the time for action is now. What are important immediate steps that the federal government can take to end violent Islamophobic attacks?

- Bill 21- legislation Islamophobic- provincial law - federal challenge is possible
- Criminal law - hate crimes, being strict about how it handled, use a carrot and stick approach - reward/punishment approach. The threshold of hate speech laws should be lowered to include more hate incidents.
- No-fly list - Muslims affected, better screening systems needed, border crossing,
- CBSA needs oversight
- Expand Employment Equity to cover religious minorities – discrimination in employment against Muslims and Muslim women in particular needs to be addressed.

Comments:

- Emergency preparedness and safety policies for all masajid- in case of terrorist or hate attack, fires, vandalism etc.
- Funding Muslim community initiatives- sustainable, collaborative initiatives
- Celebrate Muslims and their contributions to Canada
- Muslim organizations are probably the least funded for many reasons, including lack of recognition of the work that is done by grassroots groups. In general, if funders can open up more to funding grassroots organizations, Muslim organizations will benefit.
- Social media algorithms disproportionately target racialized Muslims. Legislation and regulations are needed to change this.
- Fund programs like Sulah/ restorative justice to ease racial/ Islamophobic conflicts: more awareness for such programs
- Federal government can focus on the cultural sensitivity and cultural competency in its systems. It can focus its filters to promote diversity and inclusion. Use a similar approach to policy development, analysis and implementation as GBA+.
- Stop illegal surveillance of Muslim charities, mosques and organizations
- Federal government support education and sensitivity training on Muslims and Islamic culture
- Federal government should fund the diverse Muslim organizations and recognize their contribution to the Canadian society.
- Clearer legislation around hate speech and hate crime. Law enforcement agencies don't have a uniform understanding of the Criminal Code around hate. Lack of clarity & reluctance to name hate
- All of Canada should observe October as Islamic Heritage Month
- Security of Muslim institutions (particularly masajid) is very important. Most of our masajid do not have an emergency process. Most women's sections have one entry / exit point. Masajid need financial resources and also human resources for emergency preparedness. Federal and provincial governments can have funding available (Alberta has recently done it) and municipal governments can commit to providing the human resources to coach and guide the religious institutions to prepare and implement emergency preparedness processes.

- Mandate laws to prevent discrimination based on religion and race – laws exist but filing complaints and resolution processes are complicated and ineffective.
- Private Facebook groups that incite Islamophobia should be investigated.
- Social media companies should be doing this type of investigation and be held accountable.

Group 2: Provincial Governments

1. Our communities have been saying that the time for words is over, and that the time for action is now. What are important immediate steps that provincial governments can take to end violent Islamophobic attacks?

- Governments should start with strong messaging from the top. They need to start there. Name Islamophobia.
- Governments should have strong messaging from the top.
- The provincial Quebec government has been putting ads about violence against women. I want them to put ads to talk about inclusion of all racial groups.
- Decolonizing school curricula would be really important. Representation of positive Islamic stories, history, art need to be included in the curriculum.
- We need stronger laws on hate.
- Quebec does not want to recognize Islamophobic attacks as terrorist attacks.

2. What are long-term steps that provincial governments can take to end systemic Islamophobia and hate in Canada?

- In Montreal, the hate crime unit is composed of four police people. They're all white. We want more effective hate crime units.
- In Ontario, the threshold of hate crimes should be lowered to include more hate incidents.
- We need a commitment from leaders from provincial parties to kick out candidates who express Islamophobic views.
- If a provincial leader or MLA has been Islamophobic in the past, they must apologize and be held accountable.
- Employment equity for provincially regulated employers.

3. What is the role of education in dismantling Islamophobia?

- There needs to be a greater emphasis within the schools to address Islamophobia and add an educational component by focusing more on Islamic Heritage Month. There are excellent resources available for that.

Comments:

- More funding for legal clinics for victims to take Islamophobia cases to court
- More funding for grassroots Muslim organizations to create local awareness programs/campaigns around Islamophobia and developing leadership skills among Muslim youth
- There is a shift in some public school boards but private schools don't come under any scrutiny or accountability- this needs to change. Sensitize students and staff about Islamophobia
- There should be more focus on Restorative Justice instead of Punitive Justice so that harm doers are brought face to face with the impact they have created on victims. Eg. Sulah program in Kitchener Waterloo region- for Islamophobic incidents
- Curriculum overhaul to include more Muslim narratives and identify islamophobia
- More accountability at judicial systems; Stronger punishments; Stronger laws against hate criminals
- Reduce response time to reported hate incidents
- Implicit and Anti-Racism training for all govt employees and Anti Islamophobia/ Anti Racism Employment code for private employees
- More funding for programs that help marginalized communities for socio economic progress and developments
- Invest in training police officers and service providers for cultural sensitivity,
- Greater Emphasis on Islamic Heritage Month and Eids. Programming at libraries, museums, art galleries and schools
- Current Hate crime units very understaffed and under trained- more supports, more staff, more trainings
- Anti-Islamophobia training for employees across organizations: Police, Teachers, Medical caregivers, govt employees. Pvt organizations should be encouraged to do the same with their employees to avoid racist, discriminatory behavior
- Hate crimes and hate incidents should have more legal consequences for the harm doers. Hate crimes have very high threshold- this needs to be lowered
- Victim support for hate incidents

Group 3: Municipal Governments

1. What programs should exist at the municipal level to counter Islamophobia at the local level?

- We need our voices heard at the municipal level and school board level. A lot of rules in schools are punitive and they need to be inclusive and fair.
- We need to be in the general population for non-Muslims to know who we are.

- Have funding available to newcomers to be able to join with established Canadians to get to know one another. A lot of times, racialized communities are not aware of programs/funding and only well-established and white residents know of those programs.
- Police services are a huge piece. The Police Act is provincial but the day-to-day and the budget allocation is under the Regional government/municipality. We need to make sure that there is representation on the police boards and room for Muslims to join advisory groups, etc.
- It is important that there is police funding available to racialized communities. The regional government controls the budget and the allocation of funds.

2. How should municipal governments deal with the challenge of street harassment of Canadian Muslims?

- It has been around for years but only now it is being acknowledged. The process of reporting has to be accessible and easy to understand. The data around hate crime reporting is not clear nor is it consistent across the province. There is very little support for victims when they talk to the police.
- Housing is another huge issue.

Comments:

- Police services should have clear processes about hate crimes / hate incidents reporting. These should be communicated to the community. Reported incidents should be thoroughly investigated.
- So much can be done in the libraries - Islamic Heritage Month, Eid celebration for both Eids. So book readings and book clubs for children, youth and adults for Islamic Heritage Month, songs, crafts like Islamic geometric pattern.
- Housing comes also under municipalities. There are a lot of racist Islamophobic incidents that happen in the housing. Housing rules need to be looked at to ensure that victims are not doubly victimized.
- Neighbourhood community building programs to provide opportunities for diverse neighbours to come together and learn about each other.
- Police board is appointed by the Regional Council. Regional council should ensure representation on the board.
- When hate incidents happen in the neighbourhood, often police brush it off by labelling it as a neighbour dispute. They let go of quite disturbing things, things that can be tried as harassment, in these cases.
- Having anti-Islamophobia training for the municipal staff, for all management levels.
- Having accessible interpretation to remove language barriers in all departments.
- Politicians should talk to neighborhood people to understand their trauma because of Islamophobia;
- More outreach from politicians

- More town halls and campaigns to raise awareness and counter Islamophobia and racism
- Reallocation of police funds for upstream services is also somewhat in municipal jurisdiction although their hands are tied by the Provincial Police Act. Third party hate crime reporting system is a good example of reallocation. Mental health calls diversion is another important reallocation of the police budget.

Islamic Association of Saskatchewan Consultation

Recommendations:

- Politicians need to be able to call out anti-Muslim hate and white supremacy for what it is
- Need to track quantitative data of Islamophobic attacks
- Kids should get to learn about Islamophobia in schools
- Need for online hate regulation

Canadian Council of Imams/Canadian Council of Muslim Theologians Consultation

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1. We feel that there can be no real change until the government meaningfully addresses Quebec's Bill 21, which discriminates against Muslim women and denies them their basic rights. The Bill signals to white supremacists that Muslims are not a part of society. The lack of attention that the government gives to Bill 21 is very discouraging. The federal government should make this a priority. Suggests that the federal government calls it out as racism and islamophobia in very clear terms instead of sugar-coating.
2. We demand the government do more to combat the threat of being attacked for being Muslim, such as we see in the media (eg. London family), to develop a national strategy that tackles countering domestic terrorism and to recognize Islamophobia as a threat to our national security
3. Concerned about incitement of hatred towards muslims online. Suggests the government invests in educational programs to educate youth about harmful Islamophobia.
4. Concerned about lack of clarity on the definition of islamophobia in our society. Suggests that the federal government funds educational programs on Islamophobia for elected officials and government employees to educate themselves on islamophobia through these programs on the effects of Islamophobia
5. Institutionalized racism and Islamophobia can impact whether Muslims get a job, or how people may deal with them differently because they look Muslim (eg. Beard, hijab, Thobe)

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

This section addresses; the role of education in dismantling Islamophobia, steps the provincial government can take to tackle Islamophobic attacks.

- Islam is shown through a negative viewpoint in the curriculum and education system
- Students are forced to face Islamophobia in schools due to this
- Teachers are silenced on many issues
- Suggests that more people should be employed in the policy making area and higher level in the school boards to bring awareness to this issue
- Simple training and education that teachers can receive, connection with local masjid and Imam will help to create a connection

BC Consultation (hosted by Islam Unraveled and the British Columbia Muslim Association)

Presentation:

Overview on online hate, aspect of Islamophobia, threat of transnational white supremacy

- Muslim women #1 victim of Islamophobia in Canada
- Data from **Moonshot CVE** – countering violent extremism through a partnership with Google (Google has a program called **Jigsaw** focused on addressing online hate and racism)
 - 100 active far right groups in Canada before 2015, this number has tripled (over 300) since the 2016 US presidential election
 - Primary way they spread ideology and recruit is online
 - Profile of someone motivated to join a hate group: white males, 25-34 years old, attracted to conspiracy theories that fuel violent far right ideologies
 - When accounted for population, BC is #1 in terms of hate search terms. Otherwise, ranking is Ontario, Quebec, and then BC
 - During COVID there has been an increase in online hate directed towards Muslims and other minorities, including Asian, Black, and Jewish communities
 - Most popular violent Far-right search theme in BC is about neo-Nazi/White Supremacy, followed by anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, anti-Black
 - The #1 anti-Muslim search term is “Remove Kebab” -> term came from Serbian song played during Bosnian Serbia war referring to killing Muslims
 - Anti-Muslim search volume highest in Ontario, followed by BC and Quebec. BC is second even though the population is nowhere as large as Quebec
 - White supremacy ideology needs to be understood and countered using an evidence-based approach
 - Countries are not actively engaging social media platforms (e.g. YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) to address the online hate and spread of white supremacist ideology

- Global Project against Hate and Extremism found proofs that the White Supremacist movement ideology and ideas are directly linked to terrorism, that its building an international white supremacist network which conducts its meetings in plain sight, all of this leads to the weaponization of social media by hate groups to targets racial and religious minorities
- In charge of the provincial hate crimes unit
- Hate Crime Definition, not actually a legal term -> A criminal offence committed against a person or property where the motivating factor is hate, prejudice, or bias against an identifiable group
- identifiable group -> any section of the public distinguished by race, national/ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, etc.
- Three categories of Hate Crimes in Canada:
 1. Hate-Motivated Crimes
 2. Hate Propaganda Crimes (Wilful Promotion of Hatred, Public Incitement of Hatred, Advocating Genocide)
 3. Mischief to Property – Religious/Educational
- Hate crimes can have a significant effect on sentencing
- A hate incident may be motivated by the same factors as a hate-motivated crime, but does not reach the threshold of being a criminal offence, often involve verbal abuse or offensive statements including the use of racial slurs
- What to do if victim of hate crime in real time -> try to create distance, call 911, ask for help from those around you/create witnesses
- What to do if victim of previously happened hate crime -> call the local police department, ask for help from witnesses, gather evidence from witnesses
- Resource: <https://www.resiliencebc.ca/>
- When is hate crime terrorism -> both hate crimes and terrorism can be committed for ideological reasons, when a violent attack occurs, both hate crime laws and terrorism laws may apply
- The London Attack is the second time in the past few years where a murder has also included a terrorism charge

Naima Ali – President of Somali Canadian Society of British Columbia

- Majority of Islamophobic attacks in Canada are faced by women
- Visibly Muslim women have been abused, shot at, insulted, pushed into traffic, kicked, stomped on, and killed because of anti-Muslim bigotry and hate
- 18 attacks against Muslim women in Alberta alone this year according to the Vice Chair of Anti-Racism Advisory Committee in Edmonton, number likely much higher as hate crimes are mostly unreported
- These attacks happened in the context of rising hate crimes against Muslims and the emboldening of white supremacist and neo-Nazi organizations
- Hate is a learned behavior, the question is how do we as society unlearn hate?

Discussion with Participants:

- One participant's experience running election campaign in Burnaby, BC as a Muslim women: received a lot of hate on social media, qualifications were questioned, people telling her to "go back to where you came from", difficult for her to move past those hate comments, shared the importance of reaching out to political leaders on municipal, provincial, and federal levels, and letting them know the issues that our community faces, she will be in contact with the mayor of Burnaby and suggest that the city come up with an Anti-Racism task force to address this issue
- Incidents have motivated the community to take actions and being involved and engaged in different areas such as politics, law enforcement, etc. to make yourself known, demonstrate good example to others, make allies, and work together as a community. Suggestion to work with other movements such as BlackLivesMatter, StopAsianHate, IndigenousLivesMatter
- Aspire program: assists community members and refugees through services such as mental health counselling, addressing youth and family issues, also provides case work program for clients to help them become independent and self-reliant, helping them with employment, education, skills development, housing, etc.
- Coming together to come up with strategies that are coordinated and streamlined to counter Islamophobia, interacting with the mainstream community to inform them about our culture and addressing the lack of knowledge
- One participant shared the idea of having Muslims women document these incidents similar to that done in the MeToo movement which started out with gathering testimonies, having Muslim organizations then share these incidents with media outlets would serve two purposes: first is to shame the perpetrators and inform them that we are aware of what they are doing, and second to gain empathy from the wider community and having people sympathize with Muslim women, educating and sharing these incidents would help people realize that it is not okay for Muslims to be assaulted even through the negative media coverage and victimizing Muslims all the time might make it look like
- Another participant mentioned how we as the Muslim community have the right to know the result of the investigation of incidents such as the London Attack, what did the attacker say after the attack, what caused him to attack, etc.
- Attackers are not alone, they have an online community, people who build a mythology that they buy into, even though they might never physical meet someone to support them, they are virtually influenced to conduct acts of terrorism and attacks
- A participant from a smaller community in BC expressed how they face similar problems as Muslims in the larger cities such as discriminatory comments, people telling them that they don't belong here etc. A big barrier to reporting hate and filing complaints for newcomers to Canada is the language barrier, they face difficulty navigating the system and need help finding someone who can help them report these Islamophobic incidents

- The need to involve Muslim organizations together and inviting political leaders and community members to come and listen to us. Taking collective steps forward to be more effective and to show that we are united
- An Islamophobia Forum is being planned with the Columbia Institute in September to work with the municipal government (mayor and city councillors across the Lower Mainland, BC) to talk about Islamophobia and connect the Muslim leadership with the local city and provincial governments. Since most Canadian population may have not experienced racism as Muslims do, they may not know much about Islamophobia other than what we tell them. No people of colour in law enforcement agencies leadership and chiefs in BC, and so they need to be educated and informed about the issues our community faces
- The need for education and awareness of different religions was mentioned and developing a curriculum that can be taught in schools to children to help them have a better understanding of all religions as they grow up. They will also be able to share this correct information with those around them. Also, it was suggested to have an Islamic National TV program talking about the achievements of Muslims in various professions such as lawyers, doctors, etc. and show the great services they are providing as citizens in this country, the platform can also be used to educate people about the religion and its teachings. Finally, the importance of displaying the amazing diversity within the Muslim community was talked about along with individuals from other faiths

Resources Shared:

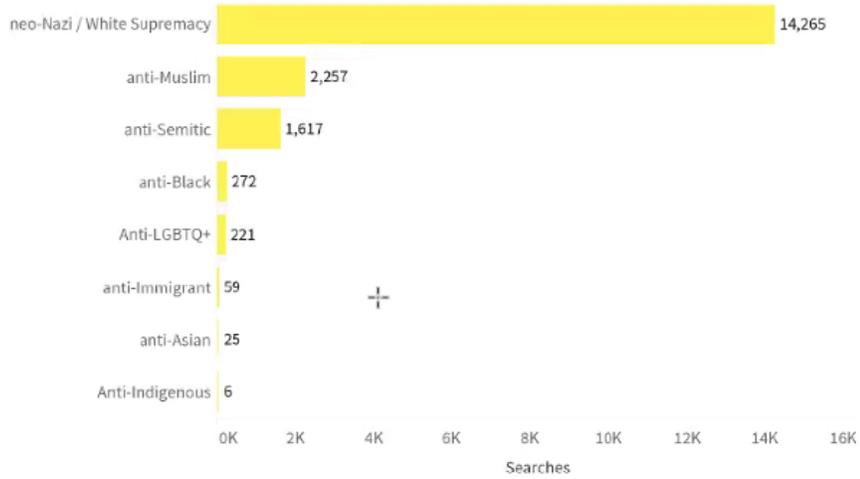
- <https://www.resiliencebc.ca/report-support/resources-for-victims-of-racism-and-hate/>
 - Muslim Food Bank, ASPIRE program
 - VictimLinkBC – Toll free multilingual phone service available 24hrs to help support victims
 - Legal Aid BC – Non-profit organization created by the legal services society to provide legal advice and representation to racialized and religious minorities
-

Statistics Shared:

Moonshot CVE



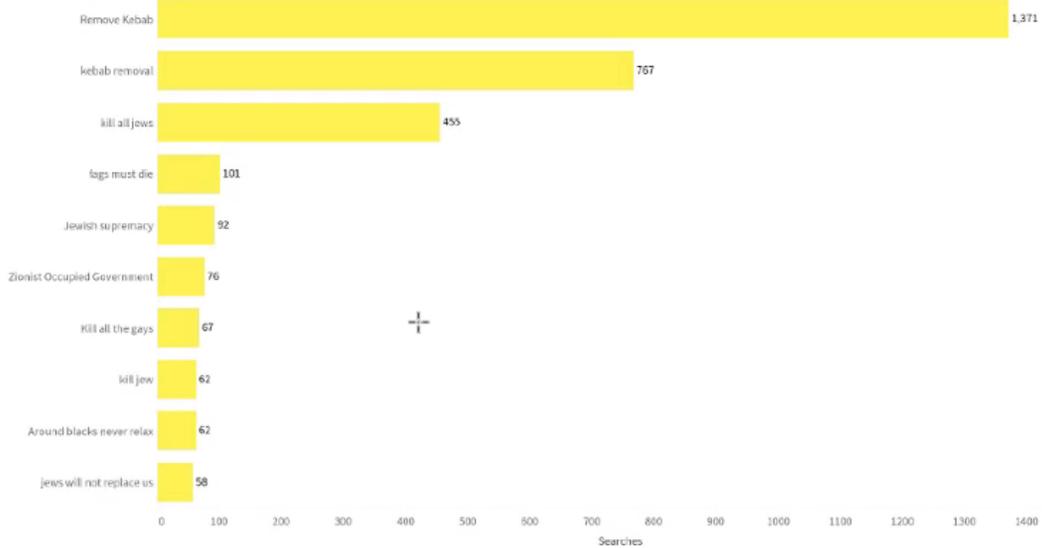
Violent Far-Right Search Themes in BC



Moonshot CVE

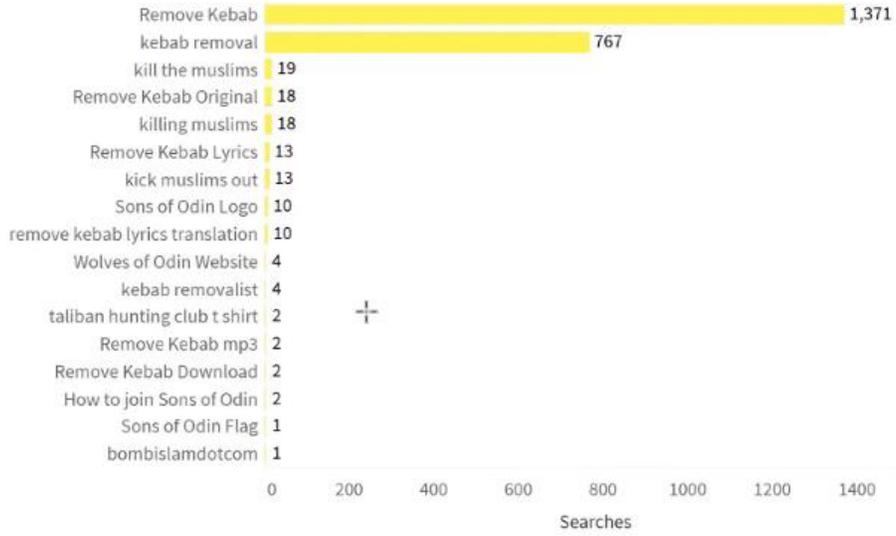


Top 10 Racism and Hate-Related Searches in BC

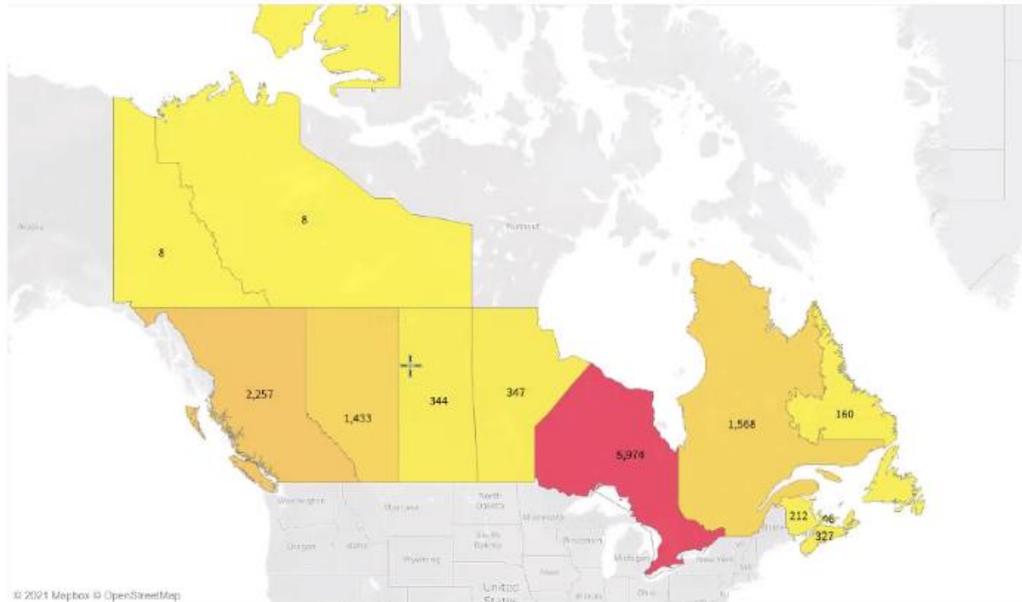




Anti-Muslim Searches in BC

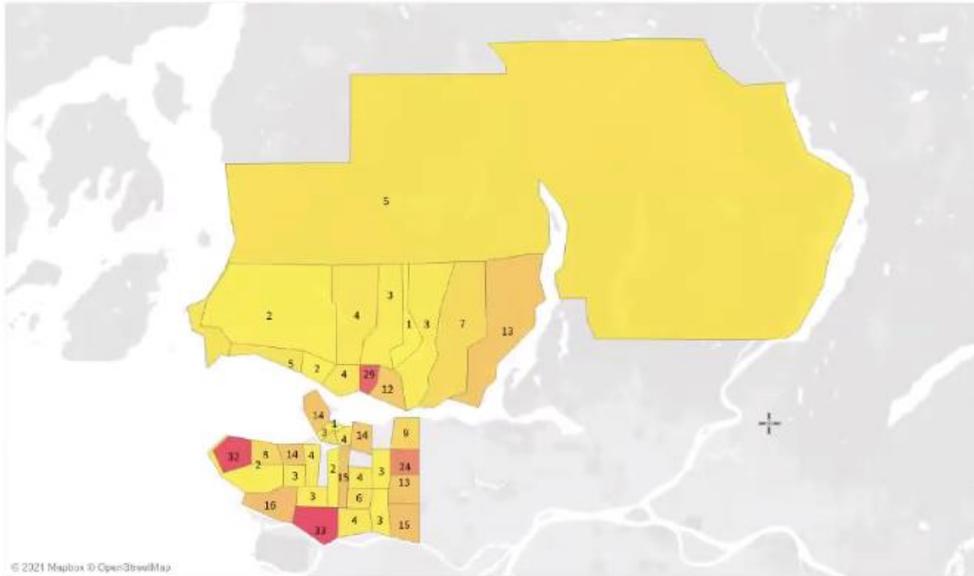


Anti-Muslim Search Volume in Canadian Provinces and Territories

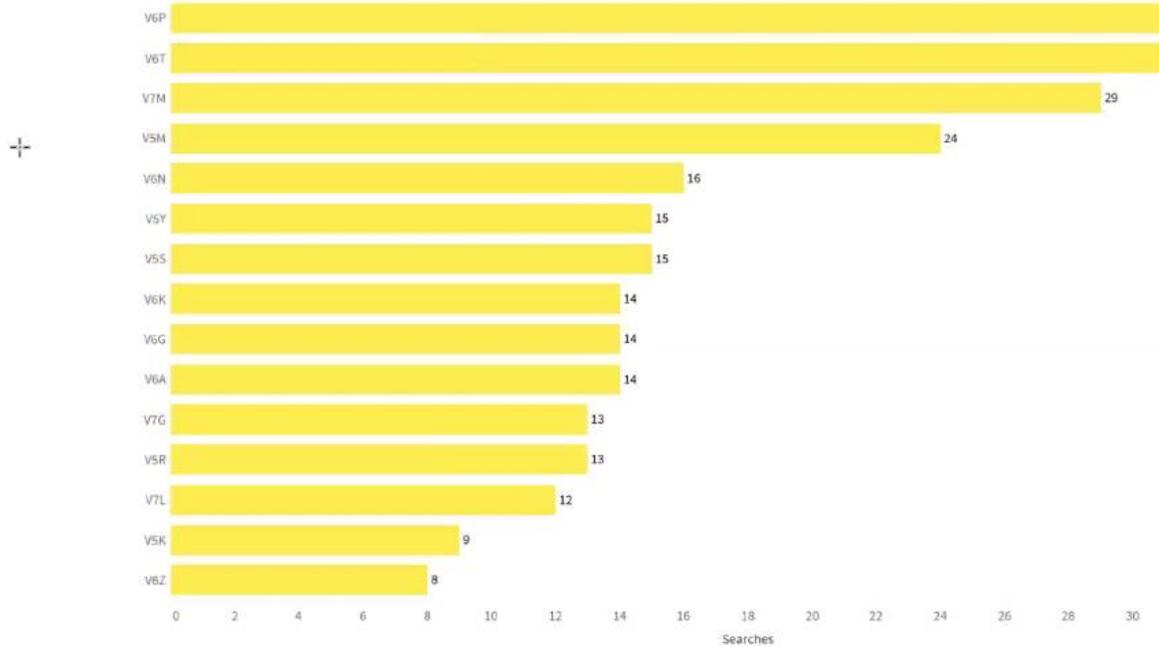




Anti-Muslim Search Volume in Vancouver



Top 15 Postcodes for Anti-Muslim Searches in Vancouver



York Region National Islamophobia Summit Community Consultation: Policy Recommendations

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1. What are long-term steps that the federal government can take to end systemic Islamophobia and hate in Canada?

- Working with the media to improve Muslim's media presence
- Limit censorship of Muslim voices
- Acknowledge white supremacy and the root that it came from
- Declaration in the house of commons condemning Islamophobia.
- Policy primer analyzing the extent of Islamophobia. Task force of experts in national security, religious tolerance, etc. producing a report detailing the issue
- A concrete action plan to counter Islamophobia.

- Legislate hate crime
- Legislation outlining Islamophobia. Official definition, sentences for Islamophobic crimes, etc.
- Establish a call center to report all hate related crimes and we should also have that possibility these info should be published
- One key pillar that is needed is to have Muslims part of the federal government process and employees. This helps drive the policies and also makes it norm that Muslims are part of the Canadian society.
- Media accountable for their role in spreading Islamophobia. They need to do better by reaching out to knowledgeable and respected representatives in Muslim communities.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

What are important changes that the federal government can undertake to stop the proliferation of hate in both online and real-world spaces?

- Preventing hate groups from registering as a charity
- Hiring people from diff backgrounds, (need Muslims as part of this group) with the right skill set to develop policy, recommendations and make the changes to the law...
- Monitor groups that are visited by individuals who have committed hate crimes and murder and hold them accountable when murder has been committed

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

What should the role of policing – and hate crime units – play in dismantling Islamophobia, especially given concerns raised around systemic racism in policing and police brutality in Canada?

- VERY difficult, as over-policing online spaces can lead to restricting freedom of expression (like Palestine, BLM)
- Take concerns and complaints regarding Islamophobia seriously
- Need to feel present and heard by the system
- Should there be support group and resources for people who are going to go through these crimes - Lawyers and Police who are Muslims who will understand and empathize with the Muslim family or person. So that the affected have immediate support. They will also have advocacy for themselves with the police and law.
- Sensitivity training for police should be enforced
- More awareness raising initiatives by policing organizations around hate crimes and Islamophobia to communities and better training of police force how to encounter folks with mental health trauma
- Hate Crime /Diversity /Inclusion units have made big strides, but LARGE issue of targeting our communities for "radicalization". Education needed for police
- more awareness raising initiatives by policing organizations around hate crimes and Islamophobia to communities and better training of police force how to encounter folks with mental health trauma

- Police training use case studies - have Muslim written case studies

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

What kind of socio-economic reforms should be undertaken by provincial governments, if any, to encourage the thriving of marginalized communities? –

Education!

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

What programs should exist at the municipal level to counter Islamophobia at the local level?

- Transit - is an interesting topic. Do they have video screens – Create a series of videos be created and displayed to all when using transit. topics like: How to treat seniors, treat women with Hijab, respect for one another, helping the disabled, how to easily report an issue or crime, make it be aware that there are cameras everywhere
- Train staff across municipal organizations to be aware and engaged in the struggles of marginalized and radicalized groups including Muslims
- Youth groups and youth engagement
- Awareness of what school board trustees are doing - increase representation
 - School boards should be holding them accountable, we should not be having to fight for that (this is exhausting)
- Action tables or working groups like Action table on Social Isolation in Halton region. The town should set up such group to work on "Hate Free Community" study , make recommendations etc

Manitoba Islamic Association Consultation Session

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Our communities have been saying that the time for words is over and that the time for action is now. What are important immediate steps that the federal government can take to end violent Islamophobic attacks?
 - **Enough damage has been done** at the federal govt level by not taking any immediate action after Quebec shooting and supporting Quebec's Bill 21, with the previous motion to identify Islamophobia defeated. It's a shame.
 - Work towards **laws** - like Europe, where denial of the Holocaust is a crime & you will be prosecuted. A similar thing needs to be done in Canada. But given our multicultural nature, bring a law where vilification of any religion,

particularly Islam & those without faiths, **should be a crime & people will be prosecuted for it** and we no longer have to beg for action.

2. What are long-term steps that the federal government can take to end systemic Islamophobia and hate in Canada?
 - One of the things we should *not* be doing is reinventing the wheel. Go for what already works. We know things like gender parity and respect for all are part of our social settings, culture & curriculum, even in elementary schools. Alongside this, we need to incorporate something about Islamophobia at every grade and how not to discriminate against anybody. This can go a long way in changing the minds of Canadians.
 - PM Trudeau needs to **denounce Bill 21**. Many Muslims are scared now & previously. There have been people in the government who have shown islamophobic policies.
 - The government needs to show that they care & will do something about it. One suggestion is **going after hate groups & harsher punishments** for hateful attacks and hateful words. People don't know the consequences.

3. What are important changes that the federal government can do to enhance public safety for Canadian Muslims?
 - Muslims pay as much taxes like anybody else. It's the fundamental job of any state to protect the lives of its citizens. **Tax money needs to be used to protect our places of worship** or commonplaces of gathering for Muslims because they have been targeted time & again. The government already has all of the geographical data to implement this.

4. What are important changes that the federal government can undertake to stop the proliferation of hate in both online and real-world spaces?
 - A big chunk of this is a real-world problem. Where are the funds for programs that will stop Islamophobia? We already have **a lot of good ideas**. We just need to push for **better funding**.
 - (On the note of freedom of speech.) If & when the government wants, it can ask Facebook, Twitter, etc. to suspend accounts. Similar actions have been taken against anti-vax speech in the last few years. For now, we can ask to **suspend accounts that spew hate**. If it's being done in India, why can't it be done here?

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

1. Our communities have been saying that the time for words is over and that the time for action is now. What are important immediate steps that provincial governments can take to end violent Islamophobic attacks?

2. What are long-term steps that provincial governments can take to end systemic Islamophobia and hate in Canada?
3. What is the role of education in dismantling Islamophobia?
 - **Educate teachers who themselves spread hate.** Find out what's being taught in classes. Because there are repercussions if anyone speaks ill of the Holocaust, why isn't the same being done for Islamophobic teaching?

Waterloo Muslim Community Consultation for the National Summit on Islamophobia

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

What programs should exist at the municipal level to counter Islamophobia at the local level?

-A participant shared his personal story about how he is not feeling like he belong in their neighborhood. He said “people don't want to talk each other, if I go to my neighborhood, they don't want to talk about. I don't want to talk about hockey, and they talk want to talk about my interest”. He added “we need **neighborhood strategy**”, “Neighborhood strategy needed from Mayors office”. He continued with the politician's role. Politicians are not talking enough with people on street. “**Politicians should talk to neighborhood people**”. He highly suggested that the importance of “Outreach from politicians”. He added “Coalition should be able to connect more people”. Finally, he emphasized the importance of calling out grassroot level racism and Islamophobia.

- A participant stressed about the importance of **extracurricular activities**. She said local school boards should focus on educating people on islamophobia and have optional or mandatory courses on Islam and immigrants and refugees.

- A participant started with “everything starts with education, but we can also consider media”. She wanted to more **representation in media**, make Muslims more visible in media which is very important for creating positive media image for Muslims. She suggested that doing different activities in the classroom, and indirectly teaching students to appreciate different culture and community is important for cultural understanding. She gave an example from her original country. They used to have a “Cultural Week” that they can learn about different culture. She focused more about encouraging appreciation of different cultures and religions.

-A participant stressed about **reporting tools**. We need to have a system to report racist Islamophobic incidents, speech, hate speech, reporting tools, Consequences for hate once they are reported, and victim support should be.

- A participant emphasized **cyber hate crime**. We need more funding expansion for hate crime units especially cybercrimes, countering online hate and bullying- some systems. Secondly, she said current Hate crime units very understaffed and under trained- more supports, more staff, more trainings needed. Thirdly, Social media and hate speech should be monitored, sometimes small incidents are not reporting.

-A participant started with “if we need confront this issue, we need to that by scientific mind”. We need to create leaders at grassroot levels. We need “**opinion leaders**”.

Provincial Levels:

Immediate Steps:

- We need to have strong punishments, stronger laws. **Hard punishment** for people who committed hate crime: More accountability at judicial systems

Long Term:

- - She starting with questioning “Why was anti islamophobia motions opposed by some parties? Question the motives of politicians”. She emphasized legislation should make easier to make people accountable for hate crimes.
- - A participant stressed the importance of **funding for Muslim communities**. She mentioned about Sulah project, and she added “I don't think it's existing in another provinces”. Funding will help these programs to grow up! Staff should be trained about Islamophobia. Empower grassroot initiatives that counter islamophobia. She said “i feel like Muslim organizations are not connecting each other. “We should learn from other's experiences”.
- - A participant suggests Implicit bias training for police: connect them with local Muslim organizations and neighborhoods, learn from real people. “Police needs to understand cultural perspectives”. He highly stressed about this training should not be a formal training. “Police officers need to go the people and talk with real people”.

Education:

- - Curriculum overhaul to include more Muslim narratives and identify islamophobia
- - Education & awareness not just for students and young adults but also for workspaces.

Educate Muslim youth and racialized people on what their rights are. Trauma counselling and

guidelines for victims.

- - Education should be in indirect way for everyone. For example, use cultural days like Canada Day and Victoria Day to celebrate diversity like the co-existent dance, events that celebrate differences and how to appreciate each other. Because majority of the people are not learning from formal education. These cultural activities will help the majority of the people learn by indirect social activities. Art for the sake of social justice. Indirect education resources should be learned. More research on how to optimize diversity. Making Eids official stat holidays.
- - Funding for programs for more efforts to include Muslim and racialized youth in social engagement activities.

- - A participant mentioned about lack of confidence among Muslim students: they are not going to open up. we need these kids to be open up: Funding to Encourage innovation and awareness in Muslim youth
- - Funding for more grassroot level Muslim organizations.
- - More funding for programs that help marginalized communities for socio economic progress developments.
- - A participant said we need a program or something to **evaluate people's degree** which they

do not have to start from scratch: More provisions to recognize foreign education and degrees; that will impact their economical and mental well-being.

Federal Level:

- A participant said more laws to legislate and give consequences for Islamophobic acts, stronger legislation, harder and prompter justice/ punishments is need. Also, educational reforms in schools and post-secondary educational institutions and more awareness about the laws, human right tribunals and their tenets

Systemic racism: Bill 21 in Quebec shows racism.

- - MPs should listen to their communities, MPs and MPPs should respond to their constituents,

keep channels of communication open to listen to the cases of islamophobia within their own communities. He also mentioned about having a name Muhammed should not be problematic for people. Surveillance of Muslims at all levels: mosques, airports, intelligence...

- - A participant suggests that in the federal level, they should mandate laws that prevent discrimination on religion and religious symbols. Government made workplace laws to prevent discrimination and have more funding to train racialized and Muslim youth to enter leadership, media roles. Finally, she suggested that government should identify fundamental, extremist groups and ideologies and ban them.

Submission to NCCM to be considered for National Summit on Islamophobia

Author: Tahseen Nasir

Words matter. This little catchphrase is being heard more often of late. As society has come to acknowledge the power of language to influence harmful and destructive behavior we are seeing more efforts aimed at redressing the balance. Some areas though, remain inexplicably untouched by this new zeal. One in particular – the language of Islamophobia – far from being curtailed, appears to be on the rise.

The post 9/11 era saw the coining of a slew of new words and expressions that have found their way into the everyday vocabulary of journalists, politicians and others. Many of these words have been directed at Islam and many of them have, either by accident or by design, been created or used with the objective of vilifying Islam and the 1.9 billion human beings on our planet that practice the religion.

Consider the following terms that are in common usage today;

Islamism

Islamist, Islamist hardliners, Sunni Islamist ideology

Islamic fundamentalists, Islamic fundamentalism

Islamic terrorists,

Muslim terrorists, Muslim hardliners

Islamic radicals, radical Islam, militant Islam

Political Islam,

Moderate Muslims

Jihadist

Islamic terrorism

Islamic fanatics

Islamic extremists

Islamic fascists, Islamofascists

Fanatical Islam.

Just a casual search of the online CBC archives revealed multiple instances of the expressions here, among others:

militant islamist

“islamist leader Mohamed Morsi” this in the same sentence that describes him as Egypt’s “first freely elected president”

islamist radicalism

violent Sunni islamist ideology

Muslim hardliners

Islamist separatism

Islamist jihad fighters

Islamist hardliners

Islamist women and girls arrested for staging street protest

Islamist militant

Islamism

political Islam

It is likely much the same with most other publications, podcasts, radio and online articles in Canada. Political leaders, especially in Quebec, also routinely use these expressions. There is, after all, no stigma or consequence attached to the use of such terms because they have become normalized in our society.

These are obviously not the only words used to denigrate Islam and Muslims. But I chose this subset as examples of words that explicitly link the religion of Islam and Muslims with negative traits like threat of violence, terrorism, fanaticism, barbarity, intolerance and an ingrained opposition to Western culture. Every connection here can be unequivocally proven to untrue. Yet, the usage of such expressions persists. By simple word association these damaging stereotypes are thrust into the consciousness of readers and listeners day after day after day by people in positions of authority or people in the media with large mainstream audiences.

As we all know Islam is the only religion in our society that is currently subject to this type of linguistic xenophobia. What little protestation there has been has had no impact and such words and expressions are now used freely by both the media and politicians in this country and elsewhere. Like weeds they have become deep-rooted and like weeds they threaten to crowd out every sane objection to their existence. Indeed, these words have gone “mainstream” and can be found in most dictionaries. But all is not lost. In our times we have seen several norms

that were thought to be firmly entrenched, abruptly turned on their heads through societal pressure. This too can be added to that list.

These words are offensive to Muslims; they besmirch Islam and are insidious, demeaning and insulting. But much more than that, they are downright dangerous. They have the effect of instilling fear, demonizing Islam and its adherents and in general, “otherizing” Muslims. They are invariably used pejoratively and explicitly place all Muslims in the “fair game” category. In so doing they help create the climate that allows a 20-year-old to mow down an entire Muslim family out for a walk on a Canadian street.

It matters not that most are made-up words and phrases that make little or no sense. What for instance, does “political Islam” mean? Not much since there is no delineation between religious and political (read Church and State) affairs in Islam. Still, that expression has come to conjure the spectre of a religion attempting to forcibly impose its values and tenets upon others.

Consider too the fact that there exists a publication called the “World Almanac of Islamism” (courtesy of the American Foreign Policy Council). The Merriam-Webster dictionary gives two meanings for “Islamism”:

- 1) the faith, doctrine, or cause of [Islam](#)
- 2) a popular reform movement advocating the reordering of government and society in accordance with laws prescribed by Islam

Interestingly, it notes that the earliest use of the word was 1747, “in the meaning defined at sense 1”. So when, how and why did it change from sense 1 to sense 2?

And what exactly is a “moderate Muslim” or a “Jihadist”? Is a “Muslim terrorist” different from a garden variety terrorist?

And we can go down the list...

It is easy to pick these words apart but no one is really listening. For the average non-Muslim all of these words have come to have connotations that portray Islam and Muslims quite differently from other religions. People with little or no knowledge of the religion will make judgments simply by word association.

Much like the “bad is black” effect where the word “black” is tacked on to words to denote negativity, “Islam” and “Muslim” are rapidly becoming synonymous with traits that are the very antithesis of the religion’s teachings.

Simple, basic respect is not too much to ask.

I understand that the primary aim of the Summit is to push for Government action. Legislation and policy changes are crucial but some of the changes required may have to come voluntarily especially when it comes to the media and our leaders.

I propose that a strong case can be made for an immediate end to the use of terms that explicitly manipulate the words “Islam” and “Muslim” to create pejorative meanings and labels. The denigration of a major religion and a quarter of the world’s population cannot be allowed to continue in this country – it is inherently un-Canadian.

London Community Consultation

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Our communities have been saying that the time for words is over, and that the time for action is now. What are important immediate steps that the federal government can take to end violent Islamophobic attacks?
 - Time for words is over, politicians provide comforting words, but now is time for action.
 - Policy makers needs to take immediate actions
 - Establish a task force at federal level on Islamophobia
 - There's a lack of information about bills and legislative action
 - Provincial government will take lead from federal government.
 - Social media cannot be unrestricted. There has to be some control of hate speech on social media.
 - Educate everyone on different levels because of ignorance. Hate and racism is not only against Muslims. Federal government can provide resources to other levels of government to increase education.

2. What are long-term steps that the federal government can take to end systemic Islamophobia and hate in Canada?
 - Pass federal legislation to prevent similar laws like Bill 21 in Quebec that limit individual religious freedoms and practices.
 - Challenge Quebec's secularism law in the Supreme Court of Canada
 - Establish a federal level hotline for reporting incidents of systemic islamophobia and publish statistics on systemic islamophobia across the nation

3. What are important changes that the federal government can do to enhance public safety for Canadian Muslims?
 - Ban hate groups and choke off funding, publicize the hate group names.
 - Make Islamophobia a priority for CSIS and RCMP as a threat to Canadian society. For a long time CSIS and RCMP targeted Muslims groups, we need resources to focus on proactively addressing hate groups that spread hate, racism and Islamophobia
 - Push the government to change policy to improve public safety for Muslims

4. What are important changes that the federal government can undertake to stop the proliferation of hate in both online and real-world spaces?
 - Canadian government should work with Social Media platform companies to identify and ban islamophobia comments and speech (as the US did during the US Election campaign). Companies should ban users that regularly post hate content.
 - Canadian government can penalize companies for not following policies on hate and Islamophobic speech
 - RCMP should get involved when foreign actors are identified as being involved in online hate speech.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

1. Our communities have been saying that the time for words is over, and that the time for action is now. What are important immediate steps that provincial governments can take to end violent Islamophobic attacks?
 - Having Muslim representation on provincial and local police boards
 - Community Outreach to work proactively with Muslim communities to address issues
 - Help establish emergency preparedness procedures with Muslim communities and schools
 - Safety and security for places of worships, Islamic institutions, centers and mosques. Provide funding to upgrade building with appropriate exits for emergencies
 - Physical security presence in smaller and rural communities.
 - Try Islamophobic terrorist attacks as terrorist acts in the courts

2. What are long-term steps that provincial governments can take to end systemic Islamophobia and hate in Canada?
 - Education, training and accountability
 - Public campaign to educate the public about Islamophobia to help raise awareness and get the public involved in reporting incidents
 - Establish a provincial level hotline for reporting incidents (by all members of the public) of islamophobia and publish statistics on islamophobia across provinces
 - Establish legislation for business to provide prayer/quiet space so Muslims can practice freely similar to providing accessible spaces, gender-neutral bathrooms, and breast-feeding rooms. This would help normalize religious practices so Muslims are not looked at as outsiders.

3. What is the role of education in dismantling Islamophobia?
 - Include Muslim contribution to civilization in curriculum. Dispel myths about Muslims, Shariah and Islam.
 - Increase awareness on Islamophobia and racism. Train teachers on islamophobia and address the problem head on with students
 - School boards to encourage Muslim Student Associations and consult how to improve the school environments for Muslim kids and stamp out Islamophobia.
 - Recognize Eids as official public holidays in schools

4. What should the role of policing – and hate crime units – play in dismantling Islamophobia, especially given concerns raised around systemic racism in policing and police brutality in Canada?
 - Work with grassroots organizations to address local issues, such as: increasing recruitment and diversity, stamping out online hate crimes, increasing physical presence. This is not a one size fits all, each community will have their own needs.
 - Translation and system-navigation services to help marginalized communities access policing services
 - Sensitivity training for police forces
 - Increased research to understand different forms of Islamophobia (eg. micro-aggression)

5. What kind of socio-economic reforms should be undertaken by provincial governments, if any, to encourage the thriving of marginalized communities?
 - In health care, provide translation services
 - Muslim chaplaincy, police community services, and social services are critical resources to help marginalized communities. Consultation is critical to help tailor solutions that are appropriate to each community.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

1. What programs should exist at the municipal level to counter Islamophobia at the local level?
 - Neighbourhood programs that can bring diverse communities together
 - Understand the diversity across the Muslim community
 - How the London Police service acted after the terrorist attack helped establish trust with the community.

1. How should municipal governments deal with the challenge of street harassment of Canadian Muslims?
 - Parking during Jumaa and Ramadan is always an issue in the community that may lead to Islamophobic behaviour. Local regions can help in providing temporary parking lots and increased public transportation during these times to reduce incidents with neighbours.

Edmonton – Green Room Consultation

Community Consultations Submission Below

Federal Level

- Appeal Bill 21 in Quebec
 - Muslims shouldn't support any groups and parties that do not oppose bill 21
 - Why aren't we lobbying our government? Why take the longer process rather than have the government get involved?
 - Why is it the responsibility of community not the government?
- Security infrastructure grant
 - Should support community programs
 - Provide opportunity for more holistic approaches to security
 - Performative and preventative
- Providing affordable housing and addressing some of those concerns
- NCCM shouldn't be calling for action through the formation of committees or forums but rather through asking for financial redirection or for increasing in policy diversity (adding more diverse Muslims to those important spaces)
- Less money to police
- Better support for mental health
- Create spaces for community healing

- Create stronger communities
- \$10 million towards safety grants
- Long term funding between organizations to connect stronger communities
- NCCM's stance on the Quebec Shooter was more focused on jailing that person rather than providing mental health support
 - Getting that balance between justice and forgiveness
- Providing universal basic income and mental health
- There are not enough consequences and there should be done to stop this hate
- Intergenerational families – unable to own housing
 - Owning houses and inability to own them due to conflicts with people's values.
- Supporting and emphasizing equity-based data to making further informed decisions.
 - Key elements – involving diverse intersectional groups when making those decisions
 - Policing Act and Commissions (Muslim voice is important because it currently doesn't exist)

Provincial Level

- Expanded hiring of different identities and faith
- Same structure that's failing our community is failing all other marginalized communities
 - Nation to nation dialogue (primarily with the indigenous community)
- Curriculum change is important
 - Lack of correct teaching
 - Correct stories is really essential
 - Role of education – it's powerful to change how kids new the world
- In times of public service who worry about their name when submitting and application
- Job inequality with screen naming
 - How to get foot in the door? It's my name will get filtered out
- Culturally unable to fit in promotion and advancement
 - Personal bias
 - Excluded from decision making
 - Devaluing women in community
- Police can't be the solution if there is a problem
 - Alternative to polite (civil groups)
 - Mental health
 - Foster care system
 - Funding \$ to Muslim led organizations
 - Minimum 3-year commitment
 - Community driven support
 - How many Muslim organizations can really help in this way?

Municipal Level

- Fund culturally & spiritually relevant mental health supports for equity seeking communities

- Victims of hate crimes and those suffering vicarious trauma need community-based supports. These needs don't fit the remit of Edmonton Police Services' Victim Services Outreach. What's needed is community-based solutions & a long-term commitment from the city so that these needs can be adequately developed & resourced. Two priorities are community based mental health supports, and campus-based supports like Indigenous Elder in Residence programs. Expanding the FCSS program and redirecting EPS funding to community-based solutions are concurrent avenues that need to be pursued to support such initiatives.
- Diversify affordable housing providers
 - The city needs to take a more active role in affordable housing and ensuring the development of diverse housing options that can accommodate more family types, especially larger & extended families. The city can do this through investing in new providers, zoning, taxation, surplus sites & funding. The City needs to ensure that investment in affordable housing builds the capacity of equity seeking communities.
- Use a GBA+ lens to inform transit expansion
 - Marginalized communities disproportionately use transit and tend to live in lower income neighbourhoods. The City's transit redesign prioritized high growth developments over the primary users of transit. Future expansion needs to focus on who uses/needs transit the most.
- Collect equity-based data
 - Current moves with EPSB, EPS and other parts of the city to collect race-based data are insufficient. Muslims are not a race. Equity/ identity-based information collection needs to be integrated into City grants, procurement, contracts & hiring.
- Ensure fair representation in leadership, committees & council hiring
 - We need to see senior leadership, boards, and City Council's direct hiring reflect the diversity of the city in tangible and immediate ways.
- Assure an equitable economic recovery
 - The City must work to ensure that ethno-cultural communities are not left out of its current economic recovery efforts. Two ways to do this are i. Extending its current social procurement efforts to more equity seeking communities and ii. treating community associations like business improvement associations (ie offering community organizations the ability to access the same supports as BIAs).
- Support preventative security
 - The City needs to support equity seeking communities (whether faith based or cultural) with more than policing or infrastructure. Incentives for preventative measures, including trees, playgrounds, etc are important to enhancing well-being and developing community connections.

Academic Consultation (University of Toronto Institute of Islamic Studies)

1. Intersectional anti-racist Task Force within GBA+
2. Rectify problems Muslim women's shelters are facing with access to public funds

3. Mass anti-Islamophobia training for frontline workers in social services e.g. those who deal with Muslim women in shelters/survivors of domestic violence
4. Reform ATIP – currently ATIP act is under review
5. Shut down fake news outlets (Disinformation Networks)
6. Research funding allocated for mental health and social impact of Canadian foreign policies on Canadians of different backgrounds
7. Safety of Canadians who speak out about Islamophobia (e.g. scholars at risk, community orgs and activists targeted and threatened with violence)
8. Media guideline for CBC

Community Consultation in Fort McMurray, AB

- Federal Gov't
 - Our communities have been saying that the time for words is over, and that the time for actions is now. What are important immediate steps that the federal gov't can take to end violent Islamophobic attacks?
 - Street harassment is largely felt/experienced
 - It feels like it doesn't matter how harmful the words are as long as it's not an immediate death threat the authorities don't respond
 - Stronger legislative tools both for in person, in print and on social media
 - Stop painting Muslims as terrorists in our mainstream media
 - Enforcing a hateful narrative about Muslims on Canadians is clearly having results
 - People that get charged for hate-motivated crimes tend to be released very easily
 - There are very generalized and weak responses to hate crimes towards Muslims
- Need to increase and normalize Muslim representation everywhere
 - ● Muslims are 'unfamiliar' to people due to them not being as accepted in representative roles (ex. News, politics, media, advertisements)
 - ● Normalize Muslims being an actual part of Canada
- The federal government must intervene in Quebec's Bill 21
 - As long as any level of government is allowed to openly discriminate at that level we will not be able to combat hate
- Stronger legislative laws that hold these attackers accountable at a larger scale than what we have seen
- Provincial Gov't
 - What is the role of education in dismantling Islamophobia?
 - There needs to be more content that truly teaches people about Muslims and Islam

- Muslim representation is lacking in the content of our curriculum
 - Allow Muslims the chance to come out and educate or answer questions people may have
 - Teach about Muslim contribution in our society and civilization as a whole
- Muslims should be at the table when writing the curriculum
- Encourage recognition of Muslims in our society ● Whether they accept us or not
- What should the role of policing - and hate crime units - play in dismantling Islamophobia, especially given concerns raised around systemic racism in policing and police brutality?
 - There is a visible lack of Muslim members in our policing units
 - There should be an easier way for the Muslim community to reach out to these authorities and be validated
 - The opportunities for Muslims in these careers need to be created
- Needs to be more welcoming and adaptable to our faith
- Monitor hate groups with a closer eye
- Be a preventative measure, not an 'after the fact' resource
- What kind of socio-economic reforms should be undertaken by provincial governments, if any, to encourage the thriving of marginalized communities?
 - Raise awareness for these marginalized minorities
 - Incorporate them into the Canadian culture without assimilating them and forcing them to dispose of their culture
 - Recognize and celebrate differences
 - Recognizing foreign credentials
- Many foreign immigrants are well trained in other countries but their certification is not recognized in Canada
- They become forced to take jobs they are overqualified for and their families may suffer from the low income
- Make the system for evaluating foreign credentials more accessible and less convoluted
- Financial support towards these communities and those who support them
- Municipal Gov't
 - What program should exist at the municipal level to counter Islamophobia at the local level?

- Raise awareness towards Islamic events
- Even hold Islamic events open for everyone
 - Hate speech needs to have stricter consequences
 - Desecration or abuse of holy buildings, like Mosques, needs a better response
 - More support towards the Mosque and its community
 - More efforts to stop these actions
 - Harder consequences for these actions
 - Advocate for Muslims as well as allowing them to advocate for themselves with your platform
- How should municipal governments deal with the challenge of street harassment of Canadian Muslims?
 - Providing safety training and tools for the groups that are consistently attacked
 - Like our Hijabi sisters
 - Instead of getting the oppressed people to have to seek out these opportunities and pay them
 - Action needs to be felt by everyone
- Those thinking of committing these hate crimes should be facing hard enough consequences to deter them
 - Raising awareness is essential
 - Provide room for more Muslims representation within our society and government

Quebec Consultation

- The Federal government needs involvement on Bill 21
- Hate speech: clear difference between freedom of speech and hate speech. Hate speech leads to hate and freedom of speech leads to enrichment of democracy and prosperity. Any speech that leads to violence and bigotry, certainly, harms freedom of speech.
- Social media; the need for solid legislations to assert that social media platforms are not turned into feeding podiums for racism and prejudice. And for those who preach violent hate are identified and brought to justice.
- Extreme right and supremacy based ideologies should be addressed as they are the creeds that are being adopted by the perpetrators of the violent Islamophobic assaults and aggressions.
- Laws and rules, although, may be at the provincial levels, however, their implications hit hard Canadian citizens. As strong evidence comes bill 21 that clearly targets Quebec young women because of their choice of dress and believes. Survey after the other proves that the Implications of law(bill) 21

has deepens the Islamophobic wounds and for so many it has approved hate against Canadian Muslims mainly in Quebec.

- Addressing openly what media reports have called toxic Islamophobic environment in some of the Canadian federal security agencies. Such sort of atmosphere has its very severe influence on, even, the process of decision making in courts, refugees claimant and targeting of Canadian citizens and residents based on their religious and ethnic backgrounds.

- Hidden racism is one of the most complicated challenges that need special approach for the authorities to be able to tackle and address. Hidden racism is mainly demonstrated at job market hiring, career opportunities and occupying of higher posts. It's also manifested in what is considered as double standards position when it comes Canadian Muslims in particular.

- One of the positive narratives in facing Islamophobia could be by clearly recognizing the contribution of Canadian Muslims in the society at a large, at all levels, social, economic and political.

- Opening opportunities to Canadian Muslim women in key positions is another component that sends clear message that all Canadians are equal and all join the efforts in making Canada what its as multicultural country and all work for its wellbeing.

- The Recognition of Islamophobia by Premier Francois Legault

- Engaging with Quebec political leaders on issues concerning Quebec's Muslim community at levels in government (municipal, provincial and federal)

- creating funding support for individuals who lost their jobs or can't find work because of Bill 21

- Creating a balanced coverage of issues concerning the Muslim Community in the French Media

- The proposed summit should present the subject matter for a deep and a profound discussion into the table of the government, political, and civic stakeholders with objectives of coming out with very concrete short, mid and long term proposals and solutions.

- Working with Muslim leaders from all sectors (mosques, academics, activists, organizations, legal)