

ACT2 END RACISM

ACT2endracism applauds the federal government for adding Proud Boys to Canada's Terrorist Watch List. While this is a positive step in the right direction, more work needs to be done to ensure all Canadians are safe.

Asian Canadians Together denounces organized groups, which evoke hate within our country's borders and beyond. Proud Boys is among 12 other extremist groups added to the Terrorist List that incite hate, racial, religious intolerance and violence. The groups actively recruit new members through social media and other networking strategies.

The deadly insurgency on the US Capital on January 6, 2021, is a recent reminder of groups' intent on spreading and activating violent and dangerous white supremacist, racist, antisemitic, Islamophobic, misogynistic ideology. Asian Canadians have endured harm from white supremacists and are subject to online hate and racism, which has heightened due to scapegoating because of COVID-19.

Although terrorist national security listing of white supremacists is encouraging, Canada should prioritize existing tools in the Criminal Code that already authorize law enforcement to take action against hatemongers and remove their financial and organizational capacity to sustain themselves. It is easier said than done, but any broadening of the national security state in ways that fundamentally circumvent procedural fairness and basic constitutional safeguards is dangerous.

We strongly support this initiative and any future initiative, which contributes to the elimination of hate groups that threaten to undermine a free and democratic civil society. We urge our leaders to address attacking systemic racism in a meaningful way.

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