



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIPOC communities and allies walked together in unity against hate in peaceful rallies in three cities, Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg.

March 27, 2021, Edmonton-AB- In a few short days, peaceful demonstrations were organized among the Black, Muslim, Indigenous, Asian and LGBTQ2+ communities in three major cities in the prairie provinces.

The rallies were spearheaded by ACT2endracism, a national network, which was created in April last year after attacks against Asian Canadians began to escalate because of the pandemic. The murders of 8 people in Atlanta, including 6 Asian women, have rocked racialized communities in our province.

Former Alberta MLA, Teresa Woo-Paw, and the founder of ACT2endracism said, “After the tragedies in Atlanta and the recent attacks against Black Muslim women in Alberta, it’s been an emotional time. People told me they wanted a space to grieve and to support one another.”

The group urges the government to speak up against hate in the following areas: ban hate symbols, lower the threshold for the definition of a hate crime, create a provincial database to track hate incidents, remove barriers to reporting and support victims.

Here in Edmonton, Sisters’ Dialogue provides a safe space for Muslim women to raise difficult conversations and is just one of several community organizations taking part in the rally.

Wati Rahmat, founder of Sisters’ Dialogue added, “There is an urgent need to address the impacts of hate-motivated violence in Alberta. We must work together from an intersectional lens to address the uniqueness of gender, race and religion. Hate must not be tolerated.”

Resources on how to deal with racism are on the ACT2endracism website along with a reporting tool. Data collected shows most targets are women and it happens in public spaces such as grocery stores or parks.

Dunia Nur, president of the African Canadian Civic Engagement Council added, “As a Black Muslim woman, I believe hate has no place in our community and the most effective way to respond and confront hate-crimes is through building a resilient and connected community. This event speaks to that.”

Hate to Hope founder, Chevi Rabbit agrees that collaboration is key. ***“As an Indigenous woman, I know what it’s like to feel othered and to be afraid. Hearing how our Asian, Black and Muslim community is in pain brought back memories of when I was attacked because of my gender identity. We all have to speak up.”***

Act2endracism is grateful for the overwhelming support with volunteers, along with donations of masks and audiovisual equipment. One of their valued partners is Amnesty International.

“The Alberta government must unequivocally denounce racially-motivated attacks, hate organizations, and their actions and most importantly to clarify the law regarding hate crimes. We also call on the Edmonton Police Service to investigate these crimes and their causes in a timely manner without discrimination.”

For more information:

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