



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIPOC communities unite to walk against hate, racism and discrimination in three cities, Calgary, Edmonton, and Winnipeg.

March 27, 2021, Calgary, AB- Calgary based Act2endracism and ACCT Foundation mobilized a peaceful walk in the city's downtown along with the Black, Indigenous, Muslim and LGBTQ2+ communities. The groups united to walk against racism on Saturday morning.

The recent murders of 8 people in Atlanta, including 6 Asian women, have deeply affected Asian communities already vulnerable due to escalating attacks and violence because of COVID-19 related racism. The sadness and anxiety sparked this community coalition.

Teresa Woo-Paw, former Alberta MLA and Act2endracism founder, speaks about the event, "The communities living in fear are experiencing mistreatment. We are uniting to show support and empower each other. We are building bridges against racism and reaching out to all those who believe in equity, inclusion and anti-racism."

Act2endracism is a national network representing Asian communities and allies across Canada. It offers support to targets of racism and has created a reporting line to capture data of incidents that often go unreported. Most reports are from women in public spaces such as grocery stores or parks.

ActionDignity is speaking out on the recent increase of attacks in our community, "In Calgary, as COVID-19 rates surged, so has racism targeting Asians. Racism is here, not somewhere else. It is urgent that we acknowledge that anti-Asian racism is real; it is imperative that we protect Asian communities."

Recent attacks against Muslim women in both Calgary and Edmonton are adding to fear and anxiety. The group hopes the government will 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.

“The Muslim community is horrified with the increase of hate crimes on Muslim women. It is very sad that Islamophobic attacks on women have become a regular occurrence,” says Saima Jamal, co-founder of the Calgary Immigrant Support Society. “It’s been going on for a long time. What’s new now is the level of violence the attacks carry. Previously it was racial slurs, degrading language or they might spit, but now it is a full-blown assault where they are tearing your hijab off, throwing you to the ground and beating you up. Our women need to feel safe in our streets.”

For more information:

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W: act2endracism.ca to report racism