

ACT2 END RACISM

Press Release

For Immediate Release

June 8, 2021

Calgary, AB-*Act2endracism is appalled and saddened by the unspeakable premeditated hit and run murders that devastated three generations of a family in London, Ontario. A family is broken only because of their faith, and a boy is forever without his family and we as a global community must speak out.*

Act2endracism sends its prayers and thoughts to the community and hopes the surviving son physically heals quickly. In the sadness of this tragedy, we are comforted somewhat that police have rightfully identified the crime as hate motivated. However, Canada's hate crime legislation needs to be strengthened with tougher guidelines for prosecution and sentencing

Act2endracism Founder, and former, Alberta MLA, Teresa Woo-Paw, added, "Hate crimes must be punished accordingly. And now more than ever, we must all stand together to work against hate. Diverse groups must push through difficult conversations. We must watch out for each other. Islamophobia and all forms of hate are unacceptable. A family was out for a walk. We cannot let fear overcome our streets. We all deserve to be safe."

Wati Rahmat, of Sisters' Dialogue, which addresses issues in Muslim and marginalised communities with a women-centered anti-oppressive lens, said, "The community is grieving and is in shock and many are afraid. Some people are fearful of going out for a walk. Let's not forget women in hijabs have been attacked here in Edmonton in broad daylight too. Hate has devastating consequences. More than ever we need to come together as diverse communities to create space to share, to collaborate in solidarity, and to denounce bigotry and hate."

We also call on our government and education system and our media to do more to reduce prejudice and discrimination. We cannot normalize an environment where hate fosters fear. We collectively as a society must advance the values of multiculturalism, racial harmony, equity, diversity and human rights, and make every effort possible to foster a civil and just society for everyone.

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