The Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat's National Summit on Islamophobia

When: Thursday, July 22, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. EDT

Minutes from Summit

In such tense times, it is important that Canada stays united. In terms of islamophobia, the far right is gaining influence. We must have the government take this seriously. If fear of Islam is on the rise- the Muslim Community wants to double their efforts on their faith.

It is important to provide mental health supports to victims of islamophobia.

Media coverage portrays a negative portrayal of the Muslim community. We must share the good news. Media should be encouraged to publicize the good work put forward by the Muslim community and this should be championed by the government officials.

A call for all mosques to be open to the community- and invite everyone, including law enforcement. Islam means peace.

The need for government to teach and educate the community on Muslim living and islamophobia is critical. This should start with setting a pluralistic context within schools, where the appreciation can start early. Weaving these contributions by other cultures into the western society and education. Starting with creating an appreciation, and education is one of the critical ways forward.

Provincial government has the power and duty to enhance the education in the school systems. In order to build a better Canada, we need the government to help shape this education.

Islamophobia has escalated to "epidemic proportion". It is intersectional and it addresses race, class status, sexuality. All Muslims experience islamophobia in forms of online hate, systemic barriers, microaggressions Fact: Crime against Muslims have tripled since 2012.

The Federal level is most important- with legislative review, federal reform and security apparatus. After the 2017 mosque shooting, a mental health advocate spearheaded questions with Muslim children.

The biggest and most notable answers and statements taken from this was "one Muslim goes and does something, and everyone thinks all Muslims are bad", "we all went to a tournament and we had to pray. Four or five of us had to pray, so we had to go into a room. We heard people coming and were scared." "our school is beside a mosque- I didn't want to go. I was scared. They killed so many people who were praying. "

Recommendation: 43- provincial- educational curriculum. Help children combat the hate they are exposed to.

An intolerance is being bread. We need better policies by government. We need better supports for victims of hate crimes, including reporting and seeking mental health support. Damage has been created by political rhetoric. We need to understand the importance for victims to seek support that is holistic and intersectional. Making this inclusive to women Muslims, women Muslims of color and disabled Muslims.

Minister Bill Blare: acknowledgement of the need for victim supports for youth and women. Improving the efforts. Introducing everyone listening to attend an info session. There is a list of terrorist groups. This list will stop them from using Canadian banking, any firearms, etc. More information coming out with the public safety portfolio. The goal is to prevent, and to prosecute.

Minister David Lametti: CHRA section 15 has been brought back. More open to an in-depth and systemic review to ensure that we have legislation to protect Muslims and speak against islamophobia. Bill 21 is being watched very carefully. We do not believe the government is a place to tell a woman what she should or should not wear.

MP Iqra Khalid & Sameer Zuberi: enhancing community security and combatting online hate.

Municipal Leaders:

Mayor Nenshi , Calgary- Alberta: wants to make it free for pepper spray to be held to combat hate crimes. We need to come down to the root of where this is coming from. There are Muslim attacks every day regardless of his privilege and power. The power comes from citizens to tell political officials what we expect from them. Striving to be not racist is not enough, we need to be anti-racist.

There needs to be better representation of the Muslim community in the schools, with the education and the curriculum. We need to include it in the education – and ensure there is reporting on it. This way there is accountability we can hold folks to.

We need to move beyond months of recognition. Teacher education. Schools and districts that are free of Islamophobia, as this is a human right. An intersectional approach is mandatory.

Publicly funded free mental healthcare for victims of hate crimes, as well as vicarious trauma for the community members. Prevention is key- how to recognize hate as well as resources for storytelling for Muslims. Stories of victimization are important and have a growing awareness associated with them. Stories of courage and resilience. We need to amplify voices of the Muslim contributions.

There needs to be more political condemnation about the laws regarding targeting any religious group.

Third party reporting is so important. Hate crimes are one of, if not the most underreported crimes. Muslim folks should be able to report to another individual should they have rightful fear of the police.

We need to create social media legislation around regulating the social media platforms.

Access to funding for any strategy needs to be available.

Creating and recording any microaggressions or racist acts- in the grocery stores, in the hospital systems, in any of these areas. We need to be proactive and ensure that all workers have access to resources so that we can decrease the hate.

Amira Elghawaby: every single person and every single political leader needs to stand up and against Bill 21. 2/3 of all hate crimes unreported. Suggested that a survey should be done every year and needs to include intersectional options.