



Thank you Waterloo Region, for your many messages of support and allyship since June 6th. Your words give us strength as we face the long road of healing ahead.

When you stand in solidarity with us, we know we are not alone. When you ask how you can help, we know you are ready to take action with us.

Whatever your religion, race, culture, sexual orientation, or ability, we are stronger because we are in this together. Let's be kinder to each other, and reach out to those who are different from ourselves. Let's build a path forward. Let's act to end Islamophobia and hatred.

Here's how you can act with us:

Name It

Use the term Islamophobia to describe anti-Muslim hate, instead of general terms like racism and hate. Naming Islamophobia acknowledges that anti-Muslim sentiment is present and is a reality.

Report It

If you witness Islamophobic, xenophobic or racist incident or discrimination, report it at ReportingHate.ca. Reporting helps document the extent of the problem, including who it happens to, and where. Data is powerful and can be used to create targeted action.

Intervene

Call out Islamophobia. Join one of our trainings to learn how to be an active bystander.

Learn

Educate yourself. Build your understanding of Islamophobia and learn about root causes.



We have collected a sampling of the words that our neighbours and partner organizations sent us, so that the community can read and be comforted by them.



Good afternoon,

We hope this email finds each of you well. We are sorry to be connecting under these circumstances, but wanted to reach out given the tragic incident in London, Ontario yesterday.

We were shocked and saddened to hear about the targeted attack against a Muslim family in London, Ontario. We know that this news hits close to home, and recognize that community extends beyond the borders of any City or Region. This hate-motivated, Islamophobic attack has resulted in the death of four family members, and a child remains in hospital in serious condition. Our hearts are heavy with grief for this tragic and senseless loss of life.

Our Hate Crime and Criminal Intelligence teams are monitoring the situation and remain committed to combating hate crime and extremism in Waterloo Region. We will stay well-connected as any further information becomes available.

There is no place for Islamophobia in any of our communities, and everyone deserves to feel and be safe. We are with you during this time of grief and mourning, and we share in your anger and outrage. If there is any way we can support you, now or any time in the future, our team can be reached at EID@wrps.on.ca. If you have an immediate concern for your safety, please dial 9-1-1.

Please share this email with those of your contacts you feel would be appropriate, and feel free to let us know who we may have missed so that we can be sure to better connect in the future.

Take good care,
Eric, Paige, JK and Melissa

Equity, Inclusion & Diversity Unit
Waterloo Region Police Services



My heart hurts for you, your family and friends and our community as I reflect on the horrible hate crime that took place in London last night. I wanted to send you a short message of support and let you know that I am thinking of you and if there is anything I can do to support you or your organization please reach out. More than ever the work that you and your organization are doing is critical. I recognize it is hard to do the work and live through your own personal trauma related to these crimes. I will be supporting my own friends and peers and encouraging them to attend the vigil tonight as well as seek other supports as they need.





Community Coalition on Refugee and Immigrant Concerns
(CCORIC)

C/O Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre
44 Francis St. South, Kitchener, N2G 2A2

June 12, 2021

Fauzia Mazhar
Coalition of Muslim Women
Kitchener, ON

Dear Fauzia,

Community Coalition on Refugee and Immigrant Concern (CCORIC) is dedicated to building and maintaining Waterloo Region as a welcoming, safe, and inclusive community for refugees and immigrants.

On Sunday, we were shocked and horrified to learn of the attack and senseless killing of the Afzaal family in London, Ontario.

This attack reminds us that Islamophobia, racism, and hate are very real within our communities, our province, and across Canada.

CCORIC stands in solidarity and grief with you, the Coalition of Muslim Women, our Muslim friends, colleagues, and community members. We call out the hate-fueled ideology that motivated this attack and intends to divide us.

We call on the local, provincial, and federal governments to recognize the reality of Islamophobia in our communities and commit to seismic policy shifts that will address and eradicate hate-fueled ideology, including:

- * addressing the rise of white supremacy organizations within Canada,
- * ensuring anti-hate and anti-Muslim racism becomes part of our education system.
- * and speaking loudly against legislation such as Bill 21 in Quebec, which disproportionately impacts the rights and freedoms of Muslims living in the province and Canada.

CCORIC commits to continuing the conversation about race, equality, and justice in our community through public education, advocacy, community outreach, and collaborative work with other community groups.

We stand in solidarity with you to make meaningful change.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Roe
(Chair-CCORIC)



Apologies for the email although I wanted to send you a note to let you know I am thinking of you and our friends at the Coalition as you grieve the tragic loss of the London Muslim Family. This senseless act of violence is deeply troubling, saddening and infuriating. Although there are no words to ease your sorrow and pain, and wanted to let you know I am thinking of you and our Muslim friends at the Coalition.

Wishing you peace during these challenging times.



I hope you and your families are coping as best as can be expected during these challenging times. My sincere condolences to each of you and the broader Muslim community in light of the unspeakable violence which took place in London on Sunday night, murdering four people and leaving a 9 year old boy without his family, simply because of their faith.

I did want to reach out and see how you, your family and friends in our Islamic community are doing in light of the horrific news that came out of London and if there is anything I can do to support you or the community. I have been reaching out last night and today to members of the community and will continue to do so.

It is so difficult to try and make any sense of these senseless and vicious acts of hatred, yet we need to if only to help us process them and find a way forward.

Thank you also to CMW for so quickly organizing a virtual vigil tonight for the community to come together, grieve together and begin the journey in the days and weeks ahead towards healing together.

In closing, know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers, and if I can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Mayor Berry Vrbanovic
City of Kitchener



There are no words that we can say to take away the pain you must be feeling right now. We just wanted to reach out and say how shocked and saddened we are here at MCC by the events of this week in London. Our hearts are with you and go out to you all. Let us know how we can best support you as individuals and as a partner organization in the coming days and weeks. We want to be an active part of the community that works for change, understanding, and peace.

We're thinking of you at this time.

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario

On behalf of the City of Cambridge our collective hearts are heavy with this terrible news. We grieve for the victims and their families, members of the Muslim community and the people of the City of London. We stand with you. Hate has no place in any community.

City of Cambridge



I am saddened and horrified by the Islamophobic hate crime and murder committed in London on Sunday. I plan to attend CMW's community vigil for the deceased family and surviving child this evening and want to thank you and CMW for hosting this event allowing the community to come together to grieve and support one another. I also want to thank you for the important work of your organization to support, advocate, educate and to engage with the broader community, including our students, to help address and prevent Islamophobia. This work is so important and must continue, with all of us involved.

My thoughts are with you, the CMW team and your community partners, and my friends, colleagues and cherished neighbours in the Muslim community. Please know that you have the love and support of myself and the community.

Sincerely,
Shannon

SHANNON PENNINGTON BA, MES
Co-ordinator, Community Service-Learning
Community and Workplace Partnerships
WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY



Catherine and our entire team are absolutely heartbroken and angry at the relentless and violent Islamophobia that you and your communities continue to experience here in Waterloo Region and across Canada.

We can only imagine the intense sorrow and deep grief you are experiencing in the wake of the Islamophobic murders which stole that beautiful family in London. We sincerely appreciate you folks once again springing to action to create space for the local Muslim community's deep grief and for including us in this Vigil to honour their lives and re-commit to eradicating vile white supremacy.

Again, our deepest condolences and deepest rage. Words don't seem like enough right now but we sincerely hope you folks know that you are not alone. So many people love and value you and the work you all tirelessly do to combat anti-Muslim hatred. I know that doesn't ease the fear or the burden you carry. Know you are not carrying it alone.

With so much love,
Catherine Fife and Team



I wish to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and the Muslim community in respect of the horror perpetrated in London yesterday. As a member of the the Jewish community in KW, I understand just how traumatic and painful such events can be even for those not the immediate victims.

We must remember that this homicidal maniac did not wish just to harm one specific family but also to destabilize the Muslim community in particular and society in general. Nothing can bring the immediate victims back but with effort and goodwill we can refuse to be divided by hate. Even when we disagree, we can insist on seeing each other's humanity. In this way, we can try to repair the tear that horrible individual tried to create.

I hope that the boy recovers fully and speedily and that the friends, family and community of those who were lost will find peace and comfort in faith and the memory of their good deeds.

Yours,
Simon Adler



As an Agency and Foundation committed to the well-being and safety of children and families, we are deeply saddened by the deliberate murder of four members, spanning three generations, of a Muslim family from London, Ontario. This act of anti-Muslim hate also left a nine-year-old child who survived, and we hope for a speedy recovery for him. We are grieving with the family and community.

We extend our concern and care to all Muslims in Canada. No one should live in fear for their safety or worry about being targeted because of their religion. To our Muslim friends: please know that we care about you, you are valued members of our community, and we stand with you against the anti-Muslim hatred and racism that is at the root of this terrible tragedy.

Hate and discrimination have no place in Waterloo Region, in Ontario or in Canada. We are calling on everyone in Waterloo Region to stand up against anti-Muslim hatred, and against the racism and discrimination that has caused so much harm. It is our collective responsibility to keep our family, friends and neighbours safe.

Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region



**THEROHR CHABAD
CENTRE FOR JEWISH LIFE**

An affiliate of Chabad Lubavitch of Southern Ontario

Serving the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University & the communities of the Waterloo Region.

June 8, 2021

To the Afzaal family, and the entire Muslim community of London:

We were horrified to learn of the heartless killings of your beloved Salman, Madiha and Yumna and your esteemed mother and grandmother.

Those who believe in One G-d have no tolerance, and accept no justification for such heinous acts.

We will continue to build a society that is inclusive and welcoming to all; there is a place and a role for each of us in Canada. Even when we disagree with others, we will insist on seeing each other's humanity. In this way, we will repair the tear that this individual tried to create.

May G-d comfort you and your loved ones as only He can, and may He bless young Fayeze with a complete recovery and tremendous strength for the journey ahead.

Rabbi Moshe Goldman

Director, The Rohr Chabad Centre for Jewish Life

WWW.JEWISHWATERLOO.COM

251 Albert Street Waterloo, ON N2L 3T7 | P/F (519) 725-4289



I want to thank you and the Coalition of Muslim Women for putting together such a powerful, giving and peaceful vigil last night. I didn't know that the vigil would be 3 hours but I felt obligated to stand until the end in support of all those in the Muslim faith and in defiance against hate & Racism in all its forms. I want you to know that I grieve with you and your community. In my faith, we wear our religious clothing under our cloths and I hold it sacred but I find it completely unfair that people of Faith, with religious attire worn outwardly, are feeling like they're not safe to wear their sacred clothing. That bothers me to the core!

Although I wear my religious clothing underneath, I want you to know that I am committed to outward action in support of Religious Freedom and against hate & Racism.



There really are no words to describe what happened to the Afzaal family this past Monday. This horrific incident cannot judge who we are as Canadians, where every individual has the absolute right to live in peace and harmony regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation and personal beliefs. Please note that although I don't have the right to speak on behalf of the entire Waterloo Region Jewish community, please accept our sincerest condolences and support to our friends in both the London and our local Muslim Communities.

I need not tell you that the rise in hate crimes targeting our Canadian Jewish, Muslim, LGBTQ and Asian communities is most troubling. This pandemic unfortunately has brought out the worst in many of those that were hiding behind their repugnant ways. We've got to continue to raise our collective voices and speak out loud that not one single community will tolerate the rising tide of bigotry and intolerance that has boiled over during these past number of months. How every we can support all of us during these times must be our focus to heal these wounds. This support includes our First Nations people that have been subjected to systemic racism that goes beyond belief.

I know that Rabbi Goldman from the Rohr Chabad Centre shares in these many concerns and may have already reached out to representatives within our local Muslim community. The Rabbi and I had a good chat yesterday as to how our local Jewish Community can lend meaningful support as well. No doubt that we have challenging times ahead. It may take a long time to heal but the key in my opinion is to work side by side and take steps, large and small to make us proud to be contributing Canadians with a bright future for our children and grandchildren for generations to come.

As-Salamu alaikum, Shalom

Paul Walman



I wanted to reach out to you and let you know that you are in my prayers this week as you lead community response to the horrific murder of the Afzaal family. We have to stand up for each other, and I want you to know that I take seriously my role within the Mennonite church denomination to address extreme forms of Christianity that promote white supremacy and hate.

From one faith leader to another, I pray that God gives you strength, perseverance and endurance this week and ongoing as you care for others who are afraid and grieving and stand up to Islamophobia in our community. You are not alone. Please reach out if there is anything I can do to support you and the Coalition of Muslim Women this week and ongoing.

Salaam.

Leah Reesor-Keller
MCEC | Executive Minister



I will be at the vigil tomorrow. My heart goes out to you, CMW, and the Muslim community in Waterloo Region and beyond. This is horrifying, and I am so angry – I cannot imagine the pain and fear that must be rippling through the community. Please take good care.

Paige Monck-Whipp (she/they)
Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Advisor
Executive Branch
Waterloo Regional Police Service



I can only imagine the horror and heartbreak being felt by the Muslim community at this targeted act of hate and violence in London

Racism needs to be confronted and dealt with as a community.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences and know the community stands with you.

Karen Redman



Please accept my deepest condolences for the hate crime that occurred yesterday in London. I can't begin to imagine how such a horrific act has impacted the Muslim community not only locally but Canada-wide.

I wanted to let you know that if there is any need for ally volunteers to support our Muslim community at this point I would be happy to do so on my personal time.

Danielle Phillips (pronouns: she / her)
Tenancy Liaison Specialist, Region of Waterloo, Housing Services



It has been such a hard and heavy week for your community. My daughters and I took time last night to talk about and name the pain and grieve for the family and community impacted by this outright act of violence. Sadly we know that it exposes attitudes and aggressions that exist daily. I hope that knowing many hearts are breaking for and with you and that there are people who want to do better brings some comfort and hope. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time if there is a way that I can support you personally to professionally. I would be honored to be a part of the connections you are building.

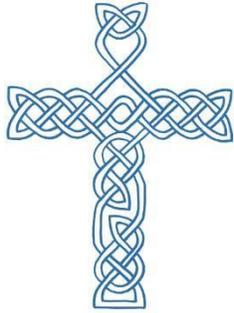
Margaret Smart
Interim Poverty Program Coordinator
margaretsmart@mcco.ca
mcco.ca/poverty-reduction



I hope you and your family are keeping well. It was horrifying to hear about the hate crime in London and it is heartbreaking that this violence is the reality that we are living. I am sending my love and prayers for you, your family and the Muslim community.

Take care,

Tamara, SASC



CHRISTIANS TOGETHER WATERLOO REGION

GATHERING THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN WATERLOO REGION
FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COMMON SERVICE

10 June 2021

Coalition of Muslim Women of Kitchener-Waterloo
65 Hanson Ave.
Kitchener, ON, N2C 2H6

Dear neighbours and colleagues,

The horrific news of four family members killed in London, Ontario on Sunday evening, in a targeted act of hate – *because* they were Muslim - is beyond comprehension. On behalf of some of your Waterloo Region neighbours in the Christian tradition, we wanted to reach out with these words of solidarity, including for the healing and support of the surviving nine year old, a now orphaned son/grandson/brother.

With one of the largest per capita Muslim populations of any city in Canada, London is known to have an inclusive and interfaith ethos, that was reflected in the simply remarkable Vigil gathering there on Tuesday evening. That ethos will be tested – and hopefully be resilient – in the time ahead.

We congratulate your organization for organizing and hosting a ‘virtual Vigil’ in Waterloo Region on Tuesday evening, attended by over 700, with a broad representation, including of elected officials and other community leaders. Some of our members were able to participate. All of us were sickened to hear that attempts were made to ‘ZOOM bomb’ the Vigil with hate speech. Fortunately you were able to respond quickly, and hopefully the Waterloo Regional Police Service can press charges against the depraved assailants.

We renew our resolve to build relationships and community founded on mutual respect. Also, to ‘call out’ hatred, and the ignorance and fear on which it is based, that can lead to such senseless violence.

Don’t be troubled with a reply, but know that the hearts of local friends and colleagues, among others, ache with yours. Please feel free to extend these words of solidarity to your sisters and brothers in the Muslim communities of Waterloo Region and the City of London, among others.

Working together for a more loving, just and inclusive society,

Salaam,

The Steering Committee of Christians Together Waterloo Region,
bringing together 250 Christian faith communities, and over 400 Christian leaders in Waterloo Region.

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristiansTogetherWR/>

https://twitter.com/christians_wr?lang=en



Heartbroken is one of the few words that makes sense right now. Heartbroken for the murders of Salman, Madiha, Yumna, Talat, and for Fayeze, a nine-year old left orphaned because of hate, Islamophobia, and white supremacy.

We were already heartbroken as we processed the news of a mass grave of Indigenous children found at the Kamloops residential school – 215 children whose names we don't even know. But we do know that there are so many more.

As many people say "this isn't Canada," we need to be honest with ourselves: this is Canada. It's the same country that starved and forcibly relocated Indigenous people, and the same country that stole children in an act of genocide. It's the same country where Mi'kmaq Indigenous fishers watch a lobster plant set on fire while the RCMP failed to protect them, where the calls for action around murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls went unanswered, where 33 Indigenous communities still don't have drinkable water in the year 2021.

It's the same country where peaceful prayers are interrupted by a mass shooting filled with hate, in a province that bans Muslim women from participating in government jobs, and a federal government that doesn't intervene.

When we say "this isn't Waterloo Region," we are ignoring the growing boldness of white supremacy, with White Lives Matter posters being posted across the community with no repercussions. We ignore that Black-identifying residents make up 3% of the population, yet make up 16% of cases where police used force. And when a peaceful online vigil held by the Coalition of Muslim Women - KW, where people were bravely sharing the trauma and hurt they are feeling, is infiltrated by people spewing racism and hate, many of us would like to say "this isn't Waterloo Region."

But it is Waterloo Region, and it is Canada. Our country has a deep history of racism that continues to this day, with increasing boldness and violence. And it's up to us to put an end to this hate, to root out institutional racism, and to actually learn and come to grips with our history – and our present.

People don't feel safe. They are afraid to leave their houses or go for walks. They are afraid of how people and systems will treat their children, especially as they grow up and become adults in a world and community that is hostile to them because of their beliefs or the colour of their skin. People are afraid to participate in the communities they live in. Heartbreaking.

We don't have the answers or solutions, but we commit to working collectively to find those. And we commit to working harder than ever to support racialized people and communities, to do what we can to amplify voices, and learn to be better allies, and better friends. And to keep working together as a community until we can proudly say "this is our community."

Cameron Dearlove
Common Cause Consulting



MCC Ontario joins with others who are outraged at the horrific hit-and-run incident that injured a nine-year-old boy and took the lives of four members of a Muslim family from London, Ontario, this past Sunday evening.

We lament this awful act of hatred and violence, and we mourn with the affected family, friends and community. As an organization that promotes peace, justice, and welcoming newcomers, we are shocked that this event took place and realize that we all have much work to do to confront the ongoing racism and Islamophobia that persists in our communities.

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario



There are no words that we can say to take away the pain you must be feeling right now. We just wanted to reach out and say how shocked and saddened we are here at MCC by the events of this week in London. Our hearts are with you and go out to you all. Let us know how we can best support you as individuals and as a partner organization in the coming days and weeks. We want to be an active part of the community that works for change, understanding, and peace.

We're thinking of you at this time,

Rod Friesen, MCCO



There is so much to be said about all that's wrong, about the persistent discrimination and hate, about the need for us all to stand together to fight back against ignorance, that I scarcely know where to begin but I'd like to start with a conversation. We'll soon be able to actually meet on a restaurant patio, and I would like to talk about how the Council of Canadians could be a far better ally and how we could best go about that, so that we effectively support your efforts at engagement and understanding, so that we can amplify your voice, as an individual and as a community.

Marilyn Hay - Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter of Council of Canadians.

To the Muslim community in Waterloo Region and throughout Canada:

We love you, we support you, and we pledge to stand up and speak out against Islamophobia. We are one. All are welcome here. - Mme. Pasel

We all support you

I am sorry for all that we have done. I feel bad everybody should be treated with respect. All are welcome here, all of us from far and wide all are welcome - I • • my



- I care about you. you are important to this world - Brynn

We love you, we help you and we are all trying to get through this pandemic together. We are all welcome here - Asher

No matter what religion, colour or gender you are we are all still the same. All are welcome.

Please feel welcome in the world. Just because some people do not care about you guys just ignore them and go on with your life!! - Brynn

We support you, we want to make it better for you! - Brynn

we can only make a change together

I hope one day we will realize that we are all the same and we will know all cultures and religions equally but, some people still don't understand that.

We admire you we support how strong you are!

All of us are welcome - Armaan

We are one we fight together and we are strong we will fight back against the Islamophobia we are all one together as a team.

I don't understand why this is still happening now. It's not fair for other people from other cultures are treated poorly. Just because of what they believe. All should be welcome here but they're not.

We all are one. If you go down, we go down with you.

We are all one

We are all sad and sad as you are. I know there will always be racist people but we must always try and get rid of them. I'm offended by this especially being a Muslim. Taylan

Hello. I am Muslim and as a Muslim there have been many challenges. But, whoever is reading this I want to tell you that you are amazing and smart let no one bring you down. I promise to take a stand for all Muslims no matter what age or race! Remember that you matter and your not a waste of space. May god bless you. - Layan

troupe you guys different and disrespectful because of your skin color. where you come from or how you dress. You all deserve to be treated respectfully and kindly. You all are amazing, smart and kind. ALL LIVES

With love from the Grade 3/4 French Immersion class at ESPS

◆
Thank you for organizing the vigil last night. I'm sure you are carrying so much right now, so I will be brief.

I'm a white Christian who lives in Kitchener and I would really like to get engaged with local efforts to end Islamophobia. If you have any ideas where I could connect, or how to start I would be glad for them. I am willing to do the work and start things up if needed - you and other local Muslims should not have to be carrying all of this alone, as strong as you obviously are. I feel a duty to speak and act against this hate, as a white Christian. Any ideas would be appreciated.

Thank you so much, and please know that there are many more like me who care and want to change things.

Scott Morton Ninomiya

◆
On behalf of the CPC, we just want to express our sadness, support and solidarity for the horrific and tragic experiences of the Muslim community this week. The vigil was hosted with such compassion, intimacy and courage and I think it really brought together the diverse element of the support we can all bring to each other. Particularly, the stigmatization and fear that results in this type of incident is so long lasting and unjust and CPC has a role in identifying its directions on this.

Our thoughts are in unity with the Muslim community and we will look to the Coalition of Muslim Women for guidance.

Crime Prevention Council

◆
Thank you for inviting all members of the K-W community to participate in the online line vigil on June 8 organized by the Community of Muslim Women-KW honouring the Muslim family who innocently lost their lives and left their 9 year old son with serious injuries because of the violent hate crime which took place in London on June 6. This vigil gave us all in K-W a safe place to open up and express our grief and provided support to all in attendance. The compassionate facilitator gave all the opportunity to express their grief and often repeated they would stay online until "as long as you need us".

The Community of Muslim Women-KW offered a peaceful platform for us all to come together and stand in solidarity with Canadian Muslims to show we will not tolerate hate crimes and that we must make Canada a safe place for us all.

Gail Schenk

