

June 8, 2021

Dear BC Muslim Association, Az-Zahraa Islamic Centre, Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy, Islam Unravelled, the Muslim Foodbank, Ismaili Council of BC and the communities that you represent.

We wish to express our deepest condolences to the Lower Mainland Muslim community on the terrible loss of four members of the London Ontario Muslim community this past Sunday evening. This deliberate act of anti-Muslim hatred that resulted in the death of three generations of one family solely because of their faith is truly shocking to us. We condemn this act of violence and call on the justice system to prosecute the suspect to the fullest extent of the law for committing both murder and a hate crime. Such actions are repugnant and destructive to people of all faiths, they are an affront to God and to all human values. Tragically, we are seeing a dramatic increase in hate crimes directed toward people of many faiths and cultures.

We stand together with our political and religious leaders in affirming the right to peaceful worship, for the right to safely practice religion both in our houses of worship and on the street.

We wish to send comfort to the extended family members of the victims, to the London, Ontario Muslim community and to Muslim communities across Canada who are feeling the pain of this tragedy. Our community has felt great comfort from the visits and well wishes of members of the Muslim community when we have experienced tragedies because of who we are, and we want to return the same sentiment to your community.

The following Jewish organizations have endorsed this letter:

Nico Slobinsky, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs  
Rabbi Jonathan Infeld of Congregations Beth Israel  
Rabbi Susan Tendler of Congregation Beth Tikvah  
Rabbi Shlomo Gabay of Congregation Beth Hamidrash  
Rabbi Philip Gibbs of Congregation Har El  
Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt of Congregation Schara Tzedek  
Rabbi Dan Moskovitz of Temple Sholom  
Rabbi Hannah Dresner of Or Shalom Synagogue  
Rob Philipp, Hillel BC  
Eldad Goldfarb, Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver  
Tanja Demajo, Jewish Family Services  
Ezra Shanken, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver  
Russ Klein, King David High School  
Ronit Amihude, Richmond Jewish Day School  
Mrs. Meira Federgrun, Shalhevet Girls High School  
Rabbi Don Pacht, Vancouver Hebrew Academy  
Nina Krieger, Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre  
Emily Greenberg, Vancouver Talmud Torah