



Statement of Solidarity with the Muslim Community

Content warning: Islamophobia, murder, terror attacks, hate crimes and violence.

June 8, 2021

The York Federation of Students reaffirms its solidarity and prayers with the Muslim Community. On June 6th 2021, a family was struck by a 20-year old man driving a pickup truck. Of the family of 5, only the 9-year old son survives the attack and now carries the burden of his entire family's death. The family being visibly Muslim in addition to further evidence, confirms that this was a premeditated hate crime rooted in Islamophobia and white supremacy.

The York Federation of Students extends our support to both the family and the greater Muslim community mourning this great loss. It has been clear for a very long time that Islamophobia has been and is still perpetrated at every level of society. This is the result of white supremacy remaining unchecked, the result of world leaders openly endorsing hateful rhetoric against predominantly Muslim populations, and the overall acceptance of hatred against those who practice Islam. The fact that this incident occurred only a few days after the bodies of 215 Indigenous Children were found at Kamloops Indian Residential School, truly exemplifies the consistent and pervasive nature of white supremacy and colonialism in our society.

It must be recognized that this is not the first time that white supremacists have targeted Muslim people, nor will it be the last. Islamophobia is an ongoing form of harm that occurs globally, and oftentimes is a tool that is weaponized to further imperialist, colonial, and white supremacist agendas.

This is a difficult time. Grieving in the after-math of incidents like this can oftentimes feel incredibly isolating. If you are in need of resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us for support, or check out <https://www.yfswellness.ca/resources/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your President, Riaz Nandan, at president@yfs.ca.