



Statement On Kingsley, Buffalo, New York

Content warning: Death, Hate Crimes, and Violence.

May 20, 2022

The York Federation of Students affirms its ongoing support and solidarity with Black students at York University, and the larger Black community, amidst this tragedy within the Kingsley community in Buffalo, New York. On May 14th 2022, ten lives were lost and three people sustained serious injuries as the result of a mass shooting that occurred at a local supermarket; of the 13 people directly affected by this act of extreme violence, 11 were Black. A manifesto containing white-nationalistic ideals was published alongside details on social media of the attack and a livestream of the massacre; further highlighting that this act of extreme violence was a racially motivated hate-crime rooted in white supremacy and anti-Black racism.

The York Federation of Students vehemently opposes all forms of hatred, racism and white supremacy. These acts of violence have become more prevalent in recent years, and are directly attributed to the rise of white supremacy globally. The gradual increase of these attacks indicate an insidious culture of acceptance regarding white supremacy, one that is consistently legitimized through the media, western governments, and their various tactics. The actions of this past weekend are a harmful reminder of the effects of colonialism within our societies; anti-Black racism in particular. Black, Indigenous, and Racialized communities are subject to a constant cycle of violence and harm from all directions, whether in the so-called United States of America and Canada, or any other colonial nations.

Instances like these are not isolated; these horrifying acts of violence further emphasize the need for community support systems, rooted in restorative justice, without the influence of the state. It is imperative that we, as a community, continue to oppose oppression in all its forms and variations, including white supremacy and anti-Blackness, and the structures so deeply rooted within them.

This may be a difficult time for many, where grief can feel isolating and exhausting. If you require support or resources of any kind, we encourage folks to visit the YFS Wellness Centre at the Second Student Centre or visit <https://www.yfswellness.ca/resources/other-resources>.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your President, Adaeze Mbalaja, at president@yfs.ca.