



## STATEMENT ON WATERLOO UNIVERSITY HATE CRIME

July 4th, 2023

On Wednesday, June 28th 2023, a violent hate-motivated attack targeted a gender studies class at the University of Waterloo. The YFS condemns this attack and would like to affirm our solidarity with all those harmed emotionally and physically, and all communities impacted by this heinous act.

Our campuses are not silos - they reflect the societies we live in. The ideology that led to this violence, is not specific to one individual, nor to one campus, but rather indicative of the systems of power and privilege which marginalize students on a daily basis. The ongoing escalation of hate and vitriol towards Queer, Trans and gender-diverse communities is a direct outcome of these systems, and how they are entrenched in our governments and institutions.

It should first and foremost be the responsibility of our governments and institutions to protect marginalized communities. However, these systems time and time again continue to fail those most at risk. As a students' union that is apart of a larger student movement, it is our responsibility to challenge these harmful beliefs, and to make campus a safe and welcoming environment for all regardless and inclusive of the identities they hold.

It is not lost on us that the student who committed this attack's international student status is being used to further xenophobic rhetoric. We must not defend one community by demonizing another as the same systems that uphold homophobia and transphobia also uphold racism and xenophobia. Liberation for all will not be achieved by the divisive rhetoric of our institutions and media which pit marginalized identities against one another to deflect responsibility from their complicity in the violence that occurs both on campus and in society.

We reaffirm our solidarity with all those affected, and those organizing to build safer and better futures for us all.

If you are looking for support please visit the resources below:

York University Student Counselling, Health and Well-being



Visit SCHW at **N110 Bennett Centre for Student Services**  
99 Ian Macdonald Boulevard  
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3  
416-736-5297

LGBT Youthline  
1-800-268-9688