

On behalf of 2,000+ members, PSAC 901 stands with all Muslims during and beyond this time of collective grief and loss. The tragedy in London, Ontario in which members of Muslim family were made victims of Islamophobic violence cannot be cast as a singular incident. We recognize that while this is a personal and immeasurable loss to their family and community, this is also a reckoning with deeply ingrained Islamophobia in settler-colonial Turtle Island. We further recognize that Canada's dominant image of proffering multiculturalism is built on the backs of refugees and immigrants who not only provide essential labour to its economy but do so while routinely facing racialized violence.

We recognize that anti-Muslim violence emerges from Orientalist discourses that justified colonization and continues to ascribe violent, stereotypical racialized conceptions of people of Islamic faith. Contemporary media still generates anti-Muslim imagery in order to justify exclusion and violence against Muslims. We also need to see any Islamophobic attack in North America as part of the increased institutionalized scrutiny of Muslims post 9/11 and America's subsequent intervention in the Middle East under the guise of "war on terror" writ-large. Canadian military contributed to these interventions by joining the US-led coalition in the 12 year-long war in Afghanistan. The despicable narrative of "terror" and the consequential Islamophobic racist ideology actively endangers Muslim community. In Canada, one cannot forget the 2017 shooting attack on the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City.

The recent upsurge of Muslim activists across Turtle Island in support of Palestinian rights has also stoked the Islamophobic anxieties that pervades Global North. Most of these activists are university students across the world facing enormous backlash for their efforts to embattle not only settler apartheid but Islamophobic sentiments against them. Queen's campus itself is not immune to Islamophobia, made visible in the trolling and attack of Muslim students who observe their religion or even voice support for peace in Palestine, Iran or Kashmir. Queen's University is also complicit in imperialist and colonial agendas, by virtue of the research work it does to support NATO and the military industrial complex, resource extraction, and the propagation of neo-colonial ideas within many of its departments. This makes revisiting and democratizing teaching material a crucial part of our decolonizing efforts. We also acknowledge that graduate employees from outside of Global North have seen the systemic furthering of an Islamophobic agenda in Global South contexts as well. Thus, our solidarities extend to all international and domestic graduate employees who have confronted Islamophobic sentiments and propaganda both within Canada and beyond.

There is additionally a gendered aspect to Islamophobia due to the visibility of Islamic faith through embodied religious markers. We also recognize that anti-Muslim sentiment can manifest across diverse ethnic groups due to Orientalist, exclusionary and stereotypically racialized images and meanings. Race and ethnicity also become a presumptive ground for anti-religious sentiments allowing enmity against racialized groups to perpetuate under the guise of

battling danger to peace and borders of nation states. Hence, it is important to see Islamophobia as a part of our efforts to counter racism and misogyny and must be seriously taken into account in all our anti-racist and anti-harassment efforts.

The executive of PSAC Local 901 would like to reiterate our commitment to serving Muslim members of the Local and will make every effort to assist and support however possible. If there is action you would like us to take, awareness you would like us to spread, or other help we can offer, your union stands with you.

Help lines in Canada:

Naseesha: 1-866-627-3342

Text or Call: 7 days/week 12pm -12am EST

Amala: the Muslim Youth Hopeline: 1-855-952-6252

Call: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, and Sun 9pm -1am EST

Text: Wednesdays and Fridays

Nisa Helpline - for women: 1-888-315-6472

Call: 7 days/week 10am -10pm EST

Education and Resources for Allies:

Islamophobia-is