

**School of Social Work**

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**Statement from the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee**

**School of Social Work**

**RE: NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON ISLAMOPHOBIA**

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The School of Social Work’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee acknowledges January 29th as "The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia." As a reminder to all staff, instructors and students, we have been encouraged to use this day to observe and acknowledge the horrific act of violence that occurred on January 29th, 2017. On this day, a lone gunman entered a mosque in Québec City and opened fire on dozens of Muslim Canadians ending a prayer service. Tragically, by the time the shooting had ended, six worshippers had been killed, and 19 more injured.

Islamophobia is a fear and/or hatred of Islam and Muslims (and those perceived as Muslim) that translates into everyday individual, ideological, systemic and intersectional forms of xenophobia and racism[[1]](#footnote-1).

The School of Social Work’s EDI Committee acknowledges and supports the collaborative work of the "Addressing Islamophobia in NL" Project (led by Drs. Sobia Shaikh and Jennifer Selby) and the Anti-Racism Coalition NL (ARC-NL). The School of Social Work stands in solidarity with Muslim and anti-racist communities in their call to remember those harmed by all forms of Islamophobic discrimination and violence and to collectively act against all forms of hate.

We encourage all staff, instructors and students to stand as allies and to educate themselves on the impacts of Islamophobia and hate. On January 29th, let’s collectively take time to reflect on strategies to respond to anti-Muslim hate, Islamophobia and other racisms in our school, this university, and across our province.

In this spirit, the EDI committee is passing along links to resources that may aid in our individual journeys and commitments to the project of ending Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism in the province of NL, including a [Community Report](https://www.mun.ca/religious-studies/media/production/memorial/academic/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/religious-studies/media-library/more/addressingislamophobia/Addressing%20Islamophobia%20Community%20Report_FINAL.pdf) and [Recommendations](https://www.mun.ca/religious-studies/media/production/memorial/academic/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/religious-studies/media-library/more/addressingislamophobia/Provincial_Recommendations_2019.pdf) of the Addressing Islamophobia in NL Project. We encourage you to use these resources while you reflect and mark this important day.

Please stay tuned for further communication from the committee regarding resources and opportunities to participate in events that acknowledge important days such as this one. It is our hope that in the next academic year, we will grow together in our understanding, recognition and appreciation of the magnificent diversity that makes our school a strong community.

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Dr. Kathy de Jong, Chair

On behalf of EDI committee members:

Fred Andersen, Lynsey Soper-Thistle, Laura Pacheco and Janice Parsons

**Resources for review**

<https://www.mun.ca/religious-studies/more/addressing-islamophobia-in-nl/>

<https://arcnl.ca/actions/act-against-islamophobia/>

https://www.nccm.ca/?s=green+square

1. https://www.mun.ca/religious-studies/more/addressing-islamophobia-in-nl/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)