



Content warning: This email mentions murder, death, and Islamophobia.

Our hearts are heavy. **In a violent act of hate, three generations of a Muslim family were killed as they took a walk on Sunday in London, Ontario.** [1]

For over 1,000,000 Muslims in Canada, this recent act of violence is devastating, but it is not wholly unexpected. From the use of anti-Muslim language, to the vandalism of mosques, and physical attacks on Muslims, police-reported hate crimes against Muslims tripled between 2012-2015. [3]

This violence has too often led to the loss of lives. **In January 2017, a gunman stormed a Quebec City mosque, killing six men** and seriously injuring 19 people. **In September 2020, a volunteer was killed outside of a Toronto mosque,** by a man with links to neo-Nazi groups. [4,5]

Hate towards Muslims — Islamophobia — takes many forms. It is gendered, with Muslim women more likely to be victims of attacks. It also compounds other forms of racism for Black Muslims, Indigenous Muslims, and Black Indigenous Muslims. [6]

When political leaders ban head coverings, it leads to hate against Muslim women. When governments pass anti-terror laws that unjustly target Muslims, it encourages armed anti-Islam groups to spy on mosques. When political parties run attack ads calling for borders to be closed, the public hears that migrants, many of whom are Muslim, are to blame. [7-10]

In Canada, 46% of people have an unfavourable view of Islam; more than any other religion. More than half feel that Muslims can only be trusted “a little” or “not at all”. And 42% of Canadians think discrimination against Muslims is “mainly their fault”. [11]

These views are deeply disturbing. Seemingly small acts of hate lead to explicit acts of violence. It’s something all non-Muslims have a responsibility to challenge.

If you’re looking for resources to learn more about Islamophobia in Canada and ways to take action to challenge it, we’ve compiled a list below. Please read and share:

Take action

- [Donate](#) in support of the 9 year-old survivor; or to the [Salman Family Sadaga Jariya Fund](#).

Resources

- [Islamophobia in Canada](#), submission to the UN
- [National Council of Canadian Muslims](#)
- [Canadian Council of Muslim Women](#)
- [Why Do You Kill Us?](#) Article by Syed Hussan

- [Confidential mental health support line for Muslim youth](#): Call or text 1-866-NASEEHA (627-3342).
- [Islamophobia Legal Assistance Hotline](#): (604) 343-3828

In solidarity,

Claire and Maggie, on behalf of the entire Leadnow team

Sources

- [1] <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-hit-and-run-politicians-react-1.6056785>
- [2] <https://twitter.com/nccm/status/1401980772035203072>
- [3] <https://globalnews.ca/news/3523535/hate-crimes-canada-muslim/>
- [4] <https://globalnews.ca/news/7930597/quebec-city-mosque-london-attack-reaction/>
- [5] <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/toronto-man-charged-in-stabbing-death-of-mosque-volunteer-1.5111062>
- [6] <https://globalnews.ca/news/3523535/hate-crimes-canada-muslim/>
- [7] <https://theconversation.com/we-are-all-niqabis-now-coronavirus-masks-reveal-hypocrisy-of-face-covering-bans-136030>
- [8] <https://www.vice.com/en/article/new9wd/the-birth-of-canadas-armed-anti-islamic-patriot-group>
- [9] <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2021/05/09/the-ford-governments-attack-campaign-misses-the-mark.html>
- [10] <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-010-x/99-010-x2011001-eng.cfm#a6>
- [11] <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Religion/Islamophobia-AntiMuslim/Civil%20Society%20or%20Individuals/Noor-ICLMG-ISSA.pdf>