

December 5, 2018

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Wilson-Raybould,

As representatives of a diverse array of communities, we are writing to request that the Government of Canada launch a national strategy to combat online hate.

As the recent attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue painfully demonstrated, there is a clear link between online hate and offline violence. In this case, the attacker's extensive promotion of antisemitic conspiracy theories on social media preceded what is believed to be the deadliest act of antisemitism in American history.

While we believe most Canadians reject bigotry in all its forms, Canada is not immune from prejudice, toxic ideologies, and hate-motivated violence. This is particularly the case when it comes to online hate, a complex and evolving phenomenon that knows no borders. For vulnerable segments of Canadian society – including women, Indigenous peoples, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Black Canadians, and LGBTQ+ Canadians, among many others – online hate ultimately poses a threat to personal safety.

We appreciate that the Government of Canada has been steadfast in denouncing hateful incidents and crimes. We now ask that you take additional action to address this issue by launching a national strategy to combat online hate.

Thank you for considering this important and urgent matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Asif Khan, National Secretary Public Relations
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at (Canada)

Archbishop Fred Hiltz
Anglican Church of Canada

Alex Neve, Secretary
Amnesty International Canada

Shahen Mirakian, President and Sevag Belian, Executive Director
Armenian National Committee of Canada

André Schutten, Director of Law & Policy
ARPA Canada

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Dr. Geoffrey Cameron, Director of Public Affairs
Baha'i Community of Canada

Farid Rohani,
BC Baha'i Community and member of the Global Reporting Center

Canadian Rabbinic Caucus

Davy Sabourin, Chair Board of Directors
Co-Chair of Capital Pride Youth Committee
Capital Pride

Shimon Koffler Fogel, CEO
Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

Salma Siddiqui, President
Coalition of Progressive Canadian Muslim Organizations

Egale Canada

Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Emmanuel Duodu, Président,
Ghanaian Canadian Association of Ontario

Ghislain Shema, President
Humura Association

Rev. Daniel Cho, Moderator
Presbyterian Church in Canada

Queenie Choo, Chief Executive Officer
SUCCESS

Mukhbir Singh, President
World Sikh Organization