



## **Faith Communities Standing Together Against Hate Based on Religious Identity**

**28 October 2024**

Canada is home to a vast diversity of people of different national origins, ethnicities, religions, and heritage.

But today, we see fear, division, hurt and grief. Even more alarming, we have also seen violence.

At times, these conditions seem to overwhelm or even subsume our common bonds of citizenship, friendship, and love for one another.

Yet, there is more that unites than divides us.

Love unites; hate divides. Respect unites; bigotry divides. Dialogue unites; ignorance divides. Listening unites; harassment divides.

None can deny the pain of these days. Yet, we see our common humanity.

Rather than viewing religion as a source of conflict and contention, we know that faith traditions can be the basis for deeper conversations and increased cooperation, greater understanding, and shared activity for a common good.

This is why...

**We, representatives of Canada's diverse faith communities, solemnly commit to:**

- Work for understanding, for justice, and for peace.
- Stand against hate of any kind in Canada. No one should be subject to racism, violence, silencing, or retaliation because of religion, indigeneity, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender, or nationality.
- Reject any glorification of the perpetrators of violence and those who sow discrimination and hatred, especially in our own communities.
- Urge our adherents never to allow their faith to become a cause for hatred of another human being.

**We call on the Government of Canada to:**

- Support Canadian interfaith efforts to provide non-sectarian medical and humanitarian aid to victims – especially child victims – of international conflicts through reputable and trustworthy organizations as a means of advancing peacebuilding abroad and social solidarity in Canada.
- Ensure that faith communities have the proper resources for the security of their houses of worship, educational institutions — including schools, daycare centres, colleges, or universities – community centres, and cemeteries.
- Introduce a comprehensive strategy to foster understanding about online hate based on religious identity.
- Ensure, in collaboration with other levels of government, hate crime units are informed about hate based on religious identity in every law enforcement service, so that targeted groups can feel safe, heard, and respected. To this end we stand ready to offer our assistance.

*This Statement of Faith Communities Standing Against Hate Based on Religious Identity has been prepared by the Canadian Interfaith Conversation and is endorsed by Executive Committee members.*

**Shaila Carter**

Co-Chair, The Canadian Interfaith  
Conversation

**Pastor Peter Noteboom**

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**Sandra Pallin**

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**Andrea Salguero**

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Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

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Muslim Association of Newfoundland and  
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St John's and Newfoundland Religious Social  
Action Coalition

*This Statement of Faith Communities Standing Against Hate Based on Religious Identity has also been endorsed and signed by the following additional sixty-five communities and institutions.*

Faheem Affan, Director  
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada

Most Reverend Linda Nicholls, Primate  
Anglican Church of Canada

Rev Wesley Mills MLC, President  
Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada

Rev Dr Brent Russett, Minister  
Asbury Free Methodist Church, Perth, Ontario

Yumna Siddiqi JD, President  
Association of Progressive Muslims of Canada

David Ruis, National Director  
Association of Vineyard Churches Canada

Mike Gordon, Lead Minister  
Bethel Christian Assembly, Brandon Manitoba

Greg Neuman, Senior Pastor  
Big Church, Barrie, Ontario

Rev John Estabrooks, Lead Pastor  
Bonavista Evangelical Missionary Church, Calgary, Alberta

Michael B Pawelke, President  
Briercrest Christian Academy, Saskatchewan

Ryan Anderson, Lead Organizer  
Calgary Alliance for the Common Good

Dr Harjot Kaur Singh, Chair  
Calgary Interfaith Council

Robbie Oleniuk, Pastor  
Calvary Evangelical Missionary Church, Owen Sound, Ontario

John Pellowe, CEO  
Canadian Centre for Christian Charities

Rev Amanda Currie, President  
Canadian Council of Churches

Nuzhat Jafri, Executive Director  
Canadian Council of Muslim Women

Celia Cheatley, Presiding Clerk  
Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rev Bruce Jones, Lead Pastor  
Chalmers Community Church, Kincardine, Ontario

Jean-Daniel Ó Donnada, National Pastor  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev Albert Postma, Executive Director, Canada  
Christian Reformed Church in North America

Willard Metzger, Executive Director  
Citizens for Public Justice

Rev Len Goddard, President  
Community Christiana Fellowship Church of Canada

Rev Dennis Friesen, Lead Pastor  
Dalmeny Bible Church, Saskatchewan

Robert A Watson, Secretary  
Devine Street Gospel Chapel, Sarnia, Ontario

Gail Allen, President  
Netta Phillet, Co-ordinator  
Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education & Action

Karen Mock CM, Chair  
Enhancing Social Justice Education

David Guretzki PhD, President & CEO  
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

Rev William Taylor, Executive Director  
Evangelical Free Church of Canada

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

John DeGiovanni, Pastor  
Firestview Community Church, Grimsby, Ontario

Dr Bill Thornton, Senior Pastor  
Flamborough Baptist Church, Waterdown, Ontario

Rev Maurice Hatfield, Pastor  
Fredericton Junction United Baptist Church  
Tracy United Baptist Church

Rev W Steven Mills  
Grace Evangelical Free Church of Thunder Bay, Ontario

Rev Drew Mersereau, Senior Pastor  
Gunningsville Baptist Church, Riverview, New Brunswick

Ronald A Kuipers, President  
Institute for Christian Studies

Halil Yurtsever, Executive Director  
Intercultural Dialogue Institute

Maytal Kowalski, Executive Director  
JSpaceCanada

Glenn Gerbrandt, Pastor  
Lashburn Community Church, Saskatchewan

Doug Klassen, Executive Minister  
Mennonite Church Canada

Liu Lafontaine, President  
Multifaith Saskatchewan

Sherry Marceil, Chair  
Multi-Faith Summit Council of BC

Zul Kassamali, President  
National Alliance for the Advancement of Pluralistic Societies  
Toronto Area Interfaith Council

Rev Tula Van Gaasbeek, Co-Chair  
National Christian Muslim Liaison Committee

Rizwan Mohammad, Senior Advocacy Officer for Government Affairs & Public Policy  
National Council of Canadian Muslims

Chris Barrett, National Director  
Navigators of Canada

Johannes Schouten, Pastor  
Nelson Ave Community Church, Burnaby, BC

Jeff Edwards, Pastor  
Northwest Community Church, Calgary, Alberta

Rob Cave, Lead Pastor  
Okotoks Evangelical Free Church

Joshua Bautista, Executive Director  
Operation Mobilization

Dr Laura Lewis, Executive Director  
Pregnancy Care Canada

Rev Dr Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Moderator of the General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church in Canada

Rev Dr Brent Hawkes CM, Executive Director  
Rainbow Faith and Freedom

Very Rev Dr Marion Pardy, Chair  
Religious Social Action Coalition, Newfoundland and Labrador

Gordon Ponak, Lead Pastor  
Richardfield Christian Fellowship, Edmonton, Alberta

Rev Barry Buhler, Senior Pastor  
Russell Alliance Church

Commissioner Lee Graves, Territorial Commander  
Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory

Rabbi Ed Elkin, President  
Toronto Board of Rabbis

Rt Rev Dr Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator  
Rev Dr Michael Blair, General Secretary  
United Church of Canada

Rev Mark MacKnight, President  
Vanguard College

May Shihadeh, Chair  
Sheila Flood, Executive Director  
Victoria, BC Multifaith Society

Mike Stone, Executive Director  
Vision Ministries Canada

Rev Dr Stephen Elliott, National Superintendent  
Wesleyan Church of Canada

Ven Bhante Saranapala  
West End Buddhist Temple and Meditation Centre

Rev Dr James R Graham, Lead Pastor  
Whitewood Evangelical Missionary Church, Saskatchewan

Barry Duguid, Chair  
Willowdale Baptist Church