

*For Immediate Release*

*August 27, 2017*

Ottawa, ON – Today, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and more than 50 community organizations united to issue a joint declaration against hate.

Groups representing a broad cross-section of Canadian society signed the declaration, including Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, African-Canadian, Chinese-Canadian, LGBTQ+, and student organizations. The text states that the signatories “refuse to be silent in response to the horrible events that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia, and acts of hate that have been perpetrated here in Canada – including incidents of bigoted graffiti, the dissemination of racist propaganda, and white nationalist rallies.”

## **Joint Statement of Solidarity and Call for Action Against Hate**

We affirm our shared commitment to building and defending a country in which all Canadians enjoy equal rights and can live free of fear, intimidation, dehumanizing rhetoric and acts of bigotry.

**We refuse to be silent in response to the horrible events that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia, and acts of hate that have been perpetrated here in Canada – including incidents of bigoted graffiti, the dissemination of racist propaganda, and white nationalist rallies.** Now more than ever, it is clear that white supremacy, antisemitism, homophobia, anti-Muslim prejudice, bigotry against Indigenous peoples, and all forms of hate are inextricably linked and must be opposed with legal and non-violent means by all people of good will.

**We pledge our solidarity with those communities targeted for hate in these rallies.** An attack against any minority is nothing less than an assault on Canada’s democratic values and a threat to our entire society.

**We urge all levels of government in Canada to take action to counter these concerning trends.** We ask that governments review laws and policies pertaining to hate and hate crime, and make appropriate changes where necessary – including:

- Establishing uniform guidelines for the collection and publication of hate crime and hate incident data;
- Creating training programs for public, police, and prosecutors that allow for more consistent and effective enforcement of hate speech laws;
- The creation of dedicated hate crime units for all sizeable police agencies;
- New measures to monitor and counter the spread of hate propaganda, which often serves as a precursor to violent radicalization.

## **Signators to the CIJA Declaration of Solidarity August 25, 2017**

Calgary Interfaith Council  
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at of Canada  
Rainbow Railroad  
Calgary Pride  
Hillel Winnipeg  
Jamaican Canadian Association  
Hillel Guelph  
Kulanu  
World Sikh Organization  
Hillel Queens  
Hillel Ryerson  
Hillel Calgary  
Ghanaian Canadian Association of Ontario  
Association of Progressive Muslims of Canada  
Ukrainian Canadian Congress  
Hillel University of Toronto  
Hillel BC  
Khalsa Diwan Society (Vancouver)  
Chinese Benevolence Association of Vancouver  
Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver  
Hillel York  
Hillel McMaster  
Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association  
Chinese Freemasons Vancouver Branch  
Shon Yee Benevolent Association of Canada  
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.  
The Laurier Institution  
Yad b'Yad  
Baha'i Community of Vancouver  
Armenian National Committee of Canada  
Hillel Waterloo  
Hillel Western  
Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh of Surrey  
Gurmat Center of Abbotsford  
Global Hindu Foundation of Canada  
Multi Faith Action Society of BC  
Anglican Church of Canada  
Baha'i Community of Canada  
Canadian Rabbinic Caucus  
Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara Association  
Hillel Canada  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
Canadian Ramgarhia Society