



Urban Alliance On Race Relations

2 Carlton Street, Suite 1001, Toronto, Ontario M5B 1J3
Tel: (416) 703-6607 Fax: (416) 703-4415 e-mail: info@urbanalliance.ca
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To: Mayor and Members of Council

Re: Letter of Support for Councillor Aylwin

On January 29th 2017, I received a call from a friend at a national Muslim advocacy organization asking me to fly to Quebec City to assist the Muslim community on the ground in the aftermath of the horrific violence witnessed at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City. That night 6 men were killed, and 17 more were injured because a hateful individual who believed in far right and white supremacist ideologies.

The following days, I heard a number of stories of which one particularly stood out. There was a 6 year old girl, who while her father was leading the prayers, watched the gunman come into that mosque and shoot her father in the back. When the men close to her realized what was happening they jumped on top of the girl to save her life. Those men intervened in a moment of crisis to save her.

A few months ago, our organization, the Urban Alliance on Race Relations once again mourned the loss of our brothers and sisters in Christchurch, New Zealand during the Toronto vigil we organized. We stood next to politicians from all stripes who took a hard stance against hate, and the rhetoric that fuels such.

It was at that moment, that I realized that the most 'successful' method of making their point for white supremacists had now become going into mosques, Black churches and synagogues and shooting praying congregants. In the United States, we have seen a number of similar attempts since that have deepened our concern.

We believe the fabric of our society as a proudly multicultural, diverse and pluralistic nation is at risk, and we need more political voices who intervene in this moment of crisis to stand up against those who espouse hate, as well as those who allow such voices to be legitimized by remaining silent to them. We all have a responsibility to name and denounce white supremacy, if we are to truly commit to the incredibly diverse mosaic of Canada.

On behalf of our organization, I wish to congratulate Councillor Aylwin for his courageous remarks. We firmly believe that the Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, should not have shared a platform with Faith Goldy, a known white supremacist, and that members of his party should only remain silent if they condone that act. Our organization however believes, and encourages elected officials from all stripes to denounce such acts in the interest of public safety.

In final, I believe in this critical moment, that those who stand up and those who remain silent will be counted, and instead of silencing or degrading those who stand up, such as Councillor Aylwin, that the Mayor and Members of Council should actually stand in solidarity with him to call on all of our political leaders to distance themselves from hate.

Sincerely,
Mohammed Hashim
Board Treasurer, Urban Alliance on Race Relations