



Whitehorse, June 19, 2021

## Statement of Solidarity with the Muslim Community

The Board of the Queer Yukon Society joins our LGBTQIA Muslim community members, their families/communities, and our friends and neighbours to grieve and condemn the murder of the Afzaal family in London, Ontario last week. We are witnessing growing waves of Islamophobic, anti-Asian, transphobic, antisemitic, and otherwise bigoted violence, often encouraged by hate speech online and given cover by political rhetoric in Canada and elsewhere. We know systemic change is needed, and we call on our governments to take the actions necessary to stop the spread of hate and violence online.

In the face of violence and prejudice, it is essential that people feel they can find community and comfort without hiding important parts of themselves. Queer Yukon condemns all forms of Islamophobia within the LGBTQIA2S+ community, and we stand by our [Code of Conduct](#) for Queer Yukon spaces and events. We invite our community members to attend Queer Yukon's [Bystander Intervention Training](#) (free, online) on June 23rd and to educate themselves on how to recognise and effectively intervene when harassment, from microaggressions to violence, is taking place.

Although intolerance towards marginalized communities takes various forms, it affects us all as marginalized people. We are never safer than when we stand together, and we are never more effective than when we act in solidarity.

**Resources** (these resources are not affiliated with Queer Yukon Society):

- The [Queer Muslim project](#) is a virtual celebration of queer/trans identity in South Asian Muslim communities, happening this month online.
- [Salaam Canada](#) is a pan-Canadian social and support organization for LGBTQ Muslims, offering monthly virtual meetings for LGBTQ Muslims as well as closed spaces for Black LGBTQ Muslims.