



June 9, 2021

Dear members,

RE: Anti-Islamic Racism

The South Asian Bar Association of British Columbia ("**SABABC**") is devastated and deeply saddened by the attack on a Muslim family in London, Ontario on June 6th, 2021. SABABC stands with the Islamic community in BC and across Canada and unequivocally condemns this terrorist attack on Muslims.

The incident has led to the death of four people, and serious injuries to a fifth. What should have been a peaceful family outing, has resulted in a nine-year-old boy battling injuries in the hospital following the death of his mother, father, sister and grandmother.

SABABC appreciates that various leaders, this week, stand with the Islamic community and reiterate that "Islamophobia has no place in any of our communities." However, we cannot ignore the alarming rise of Islamophobia, violence against minorities, and other racist attacks in various communities across Canada. This cannot be allowed to continue in our neighbourhoods, our cities, our provinces and territories, or our country, as these attacks are not reflective of our nation's values that promote diversity, inclusion and multiculturalism. This particular incident is not an isolated one, and unfortunately, not one that is surprising. Islamophobic rhetoric and acts of hate against Muslims are widespread across our country and often propagated senselessly.

We as lawyers occupy a rarified position in our society as the gatekeepers of justice and its reform. It is our sworn duty, in BC, to protect the rights and freedoms of all persons. We call on our members to stop the spread of Islamophobic and all other types of hate against minorities. This starts within us, within our homes, and within our local communities. Hateful rhetoric against any ethnic group and in any form, whether it be in casual conversation with family or in jests with friends, is not acceptable. Otherwise, the hate will continue to spread senselessly.

In addition to our call to our members, SABABC calls on all levels of government across political lines to work together on concrete solutions to address this growing problem across Canada.

This incident has resulted in a child losing his immediate family. A LaunchGood crowd funding campaign has been established to support the orphaned child. It is SABABC's understanding that the campaign has been verified by family. To donate, please visit this [link](#).

Our members are also encouraged to share the information for the Islamophobia Legal Assistance Hotline, to anyone that may need it. More information regarding the hotline can be found at this [link](#) or by calling 604-343-3828.

Sincerely,

SABABC Board of Directors