

**Anti-Homophobia Statement from Canada Imams
and Muslim Leaders**
in conjunction with a statement from the LGBTIQ community
RE: Orlando shooting

Release Date: June 24, 2016
Community Unity Iftar - The 519, 519 Church Street, Toronto ON

We the undersigned, represent Muslim organizations, communities and individuals across Canada.

The racist, homophobic and transphobic massacre in Orlando on June 12, 2016 that led to the death of 51 members of the LGBTIQ community, almost all people of colour, Black and Latino is tragic and disturbing.

It is a tragedy that has impacted people around the world and caused us all to pause for reflection. We care about the pain and the fear that members of the LGBTIQ community are continuing to experience.

As a community, we stand firmly against all forms of oppression including homophobia and transphobia. We are concerned about this oppression and its impacts on members of the LGBTIQ communities and the world. All people should be free from discrimination and oppression and be able to live their lives in peace and security.

As a community, Muslims understand the pain and suffering that comes from hatred and ignorance.

Because of the identity of the Orlando shooter, there has been, once again, an escalation in anti-Muslim sentiment and Islamophobic rhetoric, leaving many Muslims feeling unsafe in their homes and communities. No person, group or community should ever have to experience bigotry or violence because of who they are. Canadian Muslims stand for justice and dignity. Canada is our home, one that protects the rights of all communities. We live together as a wider family, respecting each other's rights as friends, neighbours, co-workers and citizens.

As a faith community, we live our lives according to the way we best understand God wants us to. Just as Muslims are protected under the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#), we support the rights and freedoms of all Canadians. We do not believe in the imposition of any beliefs/values on others.

The Canadian Muslim community is diverse and reflects the varied backgrounds of the global community.

We treasure Canadian diversity and see it as a strength to draw upon. It saddens us that any act of violence here or abroad could be misinterpreted as stemming from the doctrines and practices of Islam.

We refuse to let these types of actions define us. We will continue to stand up to fear, hatred and prejudice in all its forms and stand together to protect each other's human rights.

SEE SIGNATORIES ON FOLLOWING PAGES

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Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA)
Islamic Institute Toronto (IIT)
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Salaam: Queer Muslim Community
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Uniting Muslims and Allies for Humanity (UMAH)
Universalist Muslims