

March 15, 2019

A Statement from President Lenton on the Christchurch, NZ Attacks

Office of the President

1050 KANEFF TOWER
4700 KEELE ST.
TORONTO ON
CANADA M3J 1P3
T 416 736 5200
www.yorku.ca/president

The York University community is devastated by the senseless and cowardly attack on Muslims in Christchurch yesterday. We stand with the people of New Zealand and Muslims around the world in their grief and in their resolve to confront Islamophobia and hatred of all kinds.

On behalf of York University, I extend my most heartfelt condolences to the friends and families of those who were killed, and to those injured in the shooting. The victims were there to pray and worship in peace. Instead, they were subjected to violence perpetrated by someone motivated by racism and white nationalism. These hateful ideologies have no place in our democratic societies.

York is one of the most diverse universities in Canada. That diversity is a great strength and one of our core values as an institution. Today is a shocking reminder that we must never take these values for granted. Islamophobia is unacceptable at York, just as it should be unacceptable everywhere. Going forward, let us strengthen our commitment to building an inclusive community that protects and celebrates the dignity and human rights of every person.

Following major on- or off-campus safety incidents that could create residual fear and trauma, our policy is to reach out to affected community groups to offer services and support. Today, and over the days to come, our student services and security managers are working with York's Muslim community to address their concerns and to make sure appropriate support is provided.

If you find yourself in distress following this tragic event, please know that York has a variety of resources to assist you. Please visit please visit Mental Health and Wellness at York for more information on how we can help:
<http://mhw.info.yorku.ca/resources/resources-at-york/>.

York University joins with nations, organizations and people around the world in condemning these monstrous attacks. Today, our hearts are broken. But our commitment to a diverse and inclusive world has never been stronger.

Sincerely,



Rhonda L. Lenton,
President & Vice Chancellor

