



CCCBC Executive Committee Statement on the Recent Acts of Violence in Canada

In recent weeks, Canada has unfortunately witnessed a disturbing rise in harmful and violent acts against the Jewish People and Muslims. These acts have included offensive slurs, prejudice, hostility, and even terror claiming lives.

The Catholic Bishops of Canada adamantly object to all forms and expressions of hatred and they strongly denounce the recent violence seen in Canada against the Jewish People and Muslims, for which there can be no possible justification ever.

The Bishops appeal to the minds and hearts of the Catholic faithful, and all people of good will, to denounce Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and all similar forms of extremism and violence against fellow human beings of all faith traditions. They likewise pray for an increase in tireless, sincere and constructive dialogue, greater understanding, social harmony, and mutual respect, in order that Canadians from all backgrounds, faith traditions and cultures may live not as strangers or adversaries, but peacefully as brothers and sisters.

Let us all heed Pope Francis' call, inspired by the Gospel, to be "peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter." (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 225)

+ Richard Gagnon
on behalf of the Executive Committee of the
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

10 June 2021