

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau PC, MP  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

January 24, 2018

Dear Prime Minister:

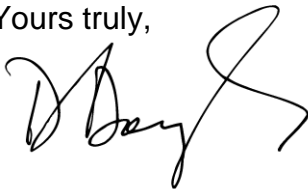
Re: Open Letter calling for designation of January 29 as National Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia

OCASI – Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants is writing to ask that January 29 is designated as a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia. We join many other civil society groups from across Canada that have written and spoken out, to ask that we begin the designation with the first anniversary of January 29, 2018.

One year after the devastating attack at the Quebec City mosque that claimed the lives of six Muslim men as they worshipped and injured 19 others we remain deeply shocked by the tragedy that is often described as the biggest terrorist attack on Canadian soil. A National Day of Remembrance and Action would be a fitting memorial to the lives lost and shattered, and a much needed focus for all Canadian residents to work to address the stereotypes, discrimination and hatred that give rise to such acts of violence. It is important that we work collectively to prevent such horrific acts from ever occurring again.

As the umbrella organization for immigrant and refugee-serving organizations in Ontario, OCASI has been actively engaged in working with our member agencies and other civil society organizations across the province to counter Islamophobia, racism and xenophobia. Discrimination and hatred towards Muslims continues to be pervasive and persistent and is a concern for us all as Canadian residents. The work to address it must be done by us all and not left only to Muslim civil society organizations and communities. A National Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia can give all Canadian residents as well as political, civil society and private sectors an opportunity to individually and collectively speak out and take action on this critical concern.

Yours truly,



Debbie Douglas  
Executive Director