



Press Release

Think for Actions Believes Bill 21 will lead to the marginalization of religious minorities

Calgary, AB, June 17, 2019 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

On April 16, 2019 Coalition Avenir de Quebec (CAQ) Passed Bill 21, 'An Act Respecting Laicity of the State'. This secularism bill will leave minorities and especially Muslim females as second-class citizens. The bill proposes to ban the wearing of the hijab, kippah and turban for public servants including teachers, school administrators, Crown lawyers, police officers, correctional officers and others.

While Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland told the United Nations on Thursday, March 28 that white supremacy and Islamophobia are among "the gravest threats facing the world", she further said "this is ultimately an international problem and we need to act collectively to address it."

"Think for Actions is deeply disappointed by the tabling of Bill 21 by Coalition Avenir de Quebec (CAQ)," said Dr. Mukarram Zaidi, chairman of Think For Actions. "These kind of bills increase racism and discrimination by providing futile grounds to white nationalism, Neo-Nazis, and white supremacists."

Think For Actions is a non-profit organization focused on youth empowerment and education. Think For Actions aspires to be a research institute and rewards young people under age 25 with scholarships as they present ways to end racism and discrimination.

Canadian Muslims have had their fair share of provincial and federal bills discriminating against them:

- Bill S7: Barbaric Cultural Practices Act, November 5, 2014
- Bill C75: The Hijab Ban at Oath Taking Ceremony, June 19, 2015
- Bill 62: An Act to Foster Adherence to State Religious Neutrality, October 18, 2017
- Opposition to Motion 103 presented in March 23, 2017 condemning Islamophobias

Hate crimes targeting Canadian Muslims increased 151% in 2017. The data released by Statistics Canada on November 18, 2018 indicated a significant increase in hate crimes against most racial, religious and other minority groups. Two years later, Canadians are still reeling from the terrorist attack in Quebec that claimed six lives and injured 19 others when Alexandre Bissonnette opened fire on worshipers in a Quebec City Mosque on January 29, 2017. Terror attacks by Muslims receive 357% more press. Terrorist attacks committed by non-Muslims (or where the religion was unknown) received an average of 15 headlines, while those committed by Muslim extremists received 105 headlines, research by the University of Alabama has stated. (The findings are based on all terrorist attacks in the US between 2006 and 2015).

For further comments and questions please contact:

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Think for Actions is a Calgary based national non-profit think tank, focused on the professional development of youth with a long-term goal of establishing a research institute on community affairs.