October 26, 2021

ActionDignity's Statement Regarding Vandalism at Gurdwara Sahib

We are appalled to hear of the racist language vandalized on the road leading to the Sikh Society of Calgary's Gurdwara Sahib. At ActionDignity we stand with the Sikh Society of Calgary and the larger Sikh community in condemning this act of hatred.

While this incident is alarming, we are even more alarmed by a rising number of hate-motivated crimes currently targeting Sikhs and other minority groups across Canada.

There is a pattern of shock that happens when racist incidents occur in our country. We sit and ask ourselves "how could this happen here?" or "this isn't the city I know." We need to now acknowledge that this too is reflective of our city and our country. And we must move past this cycle of hate incident, shock, and lack of action. An equitable society does not exist without accountability and action.

These actions can look like:

1. Amplify the voices of the Sikh community.

2. Inform yourself of the issues. There are many books, documentaries, and podcasts on antiracism.

3. Report racism. Act2EndRacism offers an online reporting centre that is accessible in multiple languages. Act2EndRacism is Canadian and provides free community resources and training opportunities.

4. Stand in solidarity. The pain and the suffering of one group does not take away from the pain and the suffering of other groups. Let us remember that many people are affected by racism; let us stand together for a better future.

5. Give and extend your understanding, time, and resources. Examples can include volunteering, donating, sending messages of support and solidarity, or taking the time to connect with anti-racism organizations in Calgary and beyond.

6. Have conversations about racism with your family, friends, and workplace.

Supports for Sikh community:

- Punjabi Community Health Services can be contacted at 587-999-9312.

- Distress Centre Calgary's 24-Hour Crisis Line can be reached at 403-266-HELP (4357).