

Request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Meeting: October 7, 2021

Subject: Reviewing and Learning from the Steps Taken to Protect Muslim Canadians by Other Canadian Municipalities and Levels of Governments

Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:

That the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report that investigates other municipalities' work around anti-Muslim hate and racism and makes recommendations on potential actions to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism in Halifax Regional Municipality.

Reason:

In the wake of the London tragedy, several Canadian municipalities have introduced a number of initiatives and policies to ensure the safety of their Muslim constituents. Muslims in Canada have been the victims of numerous hate-driven incidents. In Halifax, Muslim women also face hate-motivated incidents that risk escalating into violence.

It is important for the Halifax Regional Council to not only verbally condemn Islamophobia but to also take substantive steps to tackle Islamophobia locally. This is especially necessary for Muslim Haligonian women, who disproportionately experience higher rates of hate-motivated attacks.

A number of nationally recognized organizations presented a list of recommendations during the National Summit on Islamophobia. The Federal government stated its intent to explore potential policies, to engage Muslim communities on the next Anti-Racism Action Plan and to dedicate resources to combat Islamophobia. The recommendations outlined during the Summit and the actions of other jurisdictions present important lessons that can help us understand how to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism in Halifax, especially when it comes to protecting Muslim women.

Outcome Sought:

For the Halifax Regional Council to review and survey the steps other levels of governments have taken to tackle anti-Muslim hate and racism in their respective jurisdictions, in order to determine what the Municipality can do to support and protect Muslim constituents, specifically Muslim women.

Haneen Al-Noman, Member of Women's Advisory Committee