

Trigger Warning: This memo includes information about hate crimes.

On Sunday, June 6th 2021, news broadcast reported the horror of a family in London, ON senselessly killed. A family out for an evening walk was purposely struck. 4 members were killed; Salman Afzaal, a physiotherapist, loving husband and father. Madiha Salman a mother and wife who was completing her PhD in civil engineering. Yumna Afzaal a lovely 15 year old girl said to have had a great sense of humour by friends had just completed her first year of high school. Afzaal's 74-year-old mother, loved her family especially being grandmother and enjoyed their evening walks. Fayez Afzaal, the couple's 9-year-old son, is the lone survivor and still in the hospital. They were purposely hit and killed for their beliefs.

Sunday's attack in southwestern Ontario, the increase in anti-Asian hate crimes, the discovery of the mass grave of Indigenous children, the continued issues regarding BLM community and other Racialized groups are becoming more and more common. These communities are in shock, scared, angry and in mourning. These realities are even more devastating because it comes during a time when we should be united in getting through the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, we continue to see a rise in hate crimes, many of which are motivated by race and faith.

We at Mind Forward Brain Injury Services Ontario stand by all individuals and accept all diversity. All are welcome as we acknowledge that every person has the right to be accepted and be treated equally. We offer our thoughts, prayers and intents to the Afzaal family, the Muslim community, London and all those impacted by this tragedy.

Please see below regarding donations, petitions & resources:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/salman-family-accident-relief>

<https://www.nccm.ca/category/action-alerts/>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/london-ont-vehicle-attack-mental-health-resources-for-people-seeking-help-1.5461436>

<https://www.mcsservices.org/>

A tragedy of this nature can be difficult to process for many and can have negative impacts on our mental health. We encourage our staff group to access the EAP resources that are available.

