

On May 5, 2021, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security agreed to conduct a study on Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE). The Committee was responding to annual reports from Canadian Security and Intelligence Service and the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians that identified IMVE as a threat to Canadians. The Committee is extremely concerned about the rise of hate-motivated incidents targeting both Jewish and Muslim Canadians.

Following the London attack that killed four members of the Afzaal family, and left their 9-year old son seriously injured, the Committee invited the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) and The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) to testify on June 16, 2021.

The Committee would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Afzaal family.

We were disturbed to hear from both CIJA and NCCM that members of the Muslim and Jewish communities are afraid to walk on the streets wearing traditional dress and that they felt unsafe in their homes and places of worship.

These organizations made the following recommendations.

Security Infrastructure Program:

Both organizations spoke highly of the Security Infrastructure Program. This program allows at-risk private not-for-profit organizations such as places of worship, educational institutions and community centers to enhance their security. But they both suggested enhancements to improve the program.

- Remove need to demonstrate risk. When one must demonstrate a risk to a hate motivated crime, it often means one would already have to experience one. This has prevented organizations from applying and it means it becomes too late when a hate crime does take place because no infrastructure is in place to protect them.
- Simplify the process to apply – right now it is difficult to apply to the program.
- Funding for the security infrastructure program (SIP) should be increased and criteria expanded (for example for additional deterrent of power, other than cameras - pay law enforcement, off duty police officers to come and be a presence in front of institutions at high risk points)

Listing of Terrorist Entities

While the Committee recognizes that Canada's security agencies determine who is listed as a terrorist entity following a neutral and expert process based on evidence, intelligence and the law, concerns were expressed by NCCM and CIJA about organizations not currently listed.

Hate Crimes and Online Hate

Both NCCM and CIJA made a number of recommendations regarding hate crimes:

- Robust online hate regulation that is balanced and that ensures the protection of civil liberties through consultation with the best experts in Canada and internationally
- Review on how national security agencies have been dealing with neo-Nazi and white supremacy groups

- Train law enforcement so they can combat hate radicalization including both within existing police hate crime and community liaison units and provide funding to establish new units where they do not yet exist. This includes increasing resources, security services to monitor, track and protect Canadians from online radicalization.
- Increase resources for law enforcement, crown attorneys, judges, and others to ensure they receive sufficient training on the importance of combatting online hate.
- Set National Standards for Hate crimes that all jurisdictions can follow.

Community Institution Security Tax Rebate

- Establish a community institution security tax rebate for at-risk places of worship, schools, and community centres.

