

Thursday, September 14, 2023

RE: Standing in Solidarity with Our Muslim Community

Dear Members of the Western Community,

The Western community extends our heartfelt acknowledgment to an ongoing and deeply significant matter that continues to weigh on our hearts – The trial of a man facing terror-related murder charges in the deaths of four members of Our London Family in London, Ont. As a university community, we stand in solidarity with our Muslim students, staff, and faculty during these challenging times.

The tragic event surrounding Our London Family and this trial reminds us of the ongoing struggles against discrimination, hate, and violence many Muslim communities face. We understand that these events can evoke a range of emotions and concerns among our Muslim community members, and we want to assure you that we are here to support you.

To our Muslim students, staff and faculty members, we recognize the impact that external events can have on your daily lives and the well-being of your families. Please know that we appreciate your dedication and contributions to our community and are committed to ensuring that you feel supported. Western's Employee Assistance Program provides mental well-being support which can be accessed through the [Human Resources Website](#). If you need someone to talk to, or require resources to help cope with any emotional challenges, counselling services are available by calling 519-661-3030 or drop in and they'll help you access an appointment. For help with managing academic obligations or other stressors you can reach student support at sscm@uwo.ca. [Wellness and Well-being](#) at Western provides additional services and supports for students.

There are also various prayer spaces across our campus:
Elborn College - Room 2560
Faculty to Education - FEB 2001 (second floor)
Wellness and Well-being Multi-Faith Prayer Space - Middlesex College, 15A

Let us remember that our strength as a university community lies in our ability to come together in times of adversity and stand up against hate and discrimination. We stand united with the Muslim community and are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment where every member can thrive.

Sincerely,



John Doerksen
Vice-Provost (Students)



Opiyo Oloya
Associate Vice-President,
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion