

August 18, 2017

## **An Open Letter Condemning White Supremacy**

To Members of the University of Toronto community,

On August 11th, white nationalists gathered for a preliminary “Unite the Right” rally at the University of Virginia. On August 12th, 2017, the world watched as white nationalists from across the country gathered in Virginia to spew racist hate speech over the removal of Confederate monuments in the South. This vicious display of hate was bravely countered by the voices of affected racialized communities and their allies, including Heather Heyer, who was subsequently killed by a white supremacist terrorist who drove into a crowd of counter-protesters. It has been reported that nineteen other civilians were also injured that day. Most recently, the Canadian Nationalist Party, a white supremacist group, created a Facebook group with plans to host a rally of their own at the University of Toronto. Since that time, the University has said they will not permit this organization to host this rally on campus.

The events in Charlottesville, Virginia, are a blatant manifestation of white supremacy. The effects of white supremacy in both the United States and Canada has led to the displacement and intergenerational trauma of Indigenous people, as well as the perpetuation of anti-black, islamophobic, anti-semitic, xenophobic, and racist rhetoric towards racialized identities. It is for these reasons, that silence on such matters is unacceptable. The events in Charlottesville are an egregious display of hate that has made students and community members feel uncomfortable, threatened, concerned, and fearful for their own safety.

As representatives of over 13,000 students at the University of Toronto Scarborough, a campus that is heavily populated by racially diverse students, we understand the importance of speaking out against divisive hatred against our community, our people, and the collective brilliance of Black, Indigenous, and racialized students.

It is our collective responsibility, not just as representatives of our university, but as civilians first, to condemn the actions of these white nationalists both in Charlottesville and in Canada. It is for this reason that we demand that the university acknowledge and respect the safety, fear, and frustration of racialized students when considering next steps to address white supremacy at our institution.

Sincerely,

### **The Scarborough Campus Students' Union Executive**

Sitharsana Srithas, President

Nana Frimpong, Vice President Equity

Kubra Zakir, Vice President External



Christina Arayata, Vice President Academics and University Affairs  
Nafisa Mohamed, Vice President Campus Life  
Deena Hassan, Vice President Operations

As student leaders, united in our mis