



For Immediate Release:

University of Calgary: anti-Muslim posters

Calgary- October 4, 2016- posters with hateful messages against Muslims were posted on University of Calgary's campus.

'Think for Actions' condemns the hateful rhetoric displayed in the posters plastered on University of Calgary's campus in the early hours of the morning.

It is unfortunate when an incident like this takes place and threatens the safety of students on campus. Acts of Islamophobia can increase marginalization of Muslim youth and instill fear in the community. University of Calgary's President Elizabeth Cannon did a great job in rallying behind Muslim students and reinforcing the ideal of University of Calgary as an inclusive and welcoming environment.

'Think for Actions' aim is to dispel myths about Islam and bridge the gap of miscommunication between North American Muslims & the greater public. Our efforts include our research institute: RISC (Researchers, Intellectuals, & Scholars Conference) which aims to provide data on Muslims in North America. We conducted a survey sent out to Muslim residents of Alberta: "The objective of the survey was to understand the issues, bring out the best in us, and make sure that we have enough programs to prevent marginalization in the community," says Chairman of 'Think for Actions' Dr. Mukarram Ali Zaidi. Our findings from our first RISC survey on Muslims in Alberta outline the positive notions Muslims have with their faith and being Canadian:

97% are proud to be Canadian

98% are proud to be Muslims.

85% of Muslims strive to maintain their religion/ cultural practices and adopt Canadian customs and values.

68% of Muslims feel embraced by Canadians in their attitude towards Muslims.

58% reported that the average word(s) that the average Canadian uses to describe Islam are: Terrorist, ISIS, violent, extremist, barbaric, & oppressive.

83% believe that an average Canadians understanding of Islam is fair to poor.

These results from the RISC survey show that Muslim respondents feel proud of their Canadian identity as well as their Muslim identity. The results also outline the need for more communication between Muslims and the greater public to help develop a better understanding of each other. 'Think for Actions' is working towards bridging the gap of miscommunication between Muslims and the greater public. Dr. Mukarram Ali Zaidi the Chairman of 'Think for Actions' believes that "This is an unfortunate incident but it does present an opportunity for dialogue and bringing us closer as a community."

Please visit our website for more information: www.thinkforactions.com

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