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Support Statement

Think for Actions, A National Think Tank Supports the Respectable MLA, Craig Coolahan

Calgary, AB, July 9th, 2018

Think for Actions, a national think tank, supports MLA Craig Coolahan and his efforts towards drafting and passing a Private Member's Bill. The goal of this bill, being the prevention of hate groups in Alberta, aligns strongly with Think for Action's anti-racism and anti-bigotry values. Dr. Mukarram Zaidi, Chair of Think for actions, says "We stand with MLA Coolahan on this issue, while we at Think for Actions believe that freedom of speech is a right for all Canadians, hate speech and bigotry cannot be openly accepted by the Albertan government, as it can do great damage to our society and future generations."

Calgary is already home to the neo-Nazi organisation Blood & Honour but it now has five other hate groups who are explicitly Islamophobic: The Canadian Combat Coalition (C3) Worldwide Coalition Against Islam (WCAI), Guardians of Alberta (GOA) who are a split of the anti-immigrant and Islamophobic group the Soldiers of Odin (SOO) and finally, the National Advancement Party of Canada (NAPC). The bill being drafted by MLA Coolahan specifically aims to make amendments to the existing Societies Act in order to ensure that only groups with a stated lawful purpose and continued legal activity receive society status. This bill would prevent hate groups such as the KKK, C3, WCAI, etc. from receiving society status in Alberta or renewing their status. The bill also aims to prevent such hate groups from owning property and entering contracts under the societies name.

MLA Coolahan has said that he "Is concerned about the increased activity of hate groups and wants to ensure the Societies act is not used by these groups to increase their legitimacy." And Think for Actions stands by him in support of his efforts against hatred, discrimination and racism in Alberta.

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Think for Actions is a Calgary based national non-profit think tank, focused on the professional development of youth with a long-term goal of establishing a research institute on community affairs. The organization is focused on effectively engaging communities through research, collaborations and partnerships poised to solve grand societal challenges.

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