





We're coming together at a very troubled time to acknowledge each other and the need to keep our spaces safe and open for dialogue. We want to focus on what unites us, not what divides us, and that is our common humanity.

We recognize that Jewish and Muslim lives are equally valuable and important, and that every loss of life is tragic and represents a story and a family, and a whole circle of people who are grieving.

Both our communities are grieving right now, and we're coming together to say we want to focus on what unites us. We also extend our thoughts to Christians, Druze and other minorities in the region who are suffering and grieving.

We all recognize that these rising tensions and divisions are driving fear and anxiety. We are also aware that there are members of our communities that have family and loved ones that are being directly impacted by this war. With racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia rising, we simply will not be bystanders in the face of hate.

We urge all professors, lecturers, and students to understand the present context when exercising your freedom of expression, and making your points: this is an exceptionally raw and difficult time. Members of our law school community have lost loved ones in this conflict. We call on you to show a commensurate level of sensitivity and tact. As leaders of our respective communities, we call upon our Ottawa Law family to focus on how our shared pain unifies us instead of letting hatred divide us. We ask that you listen to each other with empathy, dignity, and respect.

We are conscious that the situation continues to be extremely critical, and that this is a very troubling time that is causing a lot of anguish for both the Jewish and Muslim communities. We recognize that other communities are affected as well.

We wish to acknowledge the support of Dean Boon, and the entire administration at the Faculty of Law, through this challenging time, and Arjun Gupta, a 2L student, for convening us.

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