CW: Islamophobia, Hate Crime, Terrorism, Death

Dear Members,

On Sunday, an innocent family’s life was stolen by a blatant hate crime and act of Islamophobia. The SCSU mourns the tragic loss of Salman, Madiha, and Yumna Afzaal and their grandmother. We are in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters and their community. Our thoughts and prayers are with Fayez Afzal in his difficult recovery.

This act of terrorism is not an isolated event. The Quebec Mosque massacre, attacks on hijabi women and countless other incidents testify for the anti-Muslim fabric that is woven into our nation. As yearly targeted attacks on the Muslim community continue to increase, the SCSU condemns any act of violence or discrimination against a person’s religion, race, identity, sexual orientation, sexual identity or ability. We stand not only in clear opposition of violent Islamophobic acts but anything that contributes to the perpetuation of an anti-Islamic culture. Islamophobia has no place in our society.

We encourage our students in mourning to utilize on- and off-campus resources, including the following available supports:

- **Naseeha:** a confidential Muslim youth helpline that offers immediate, anonymous, and confidential support
  - 12pm - 12am, 7 days a week
  - 1 (866) 627-3342
- **UTSC Health & Wellness**
  - 416-287-7065
  - health-services@utsc.utoronto.ca
- **Know Your Rights: A Guide for Muslim Post-Secondary Students**
  - Created by National Council of Canadian Muslims x Canadian Federation of Students

We demand justice for the Afzal Family. We echo the [Canadian Council of Muslim Women’s](https://www.ccmw.ca) call for the attacker to face full accountability within the current justice system. We also call on our leaders in government to go beyond the current justice system in creating safer living conditions for every person in this country, and actively combat these acts of targeted violence and systemic oppression.

In Solidarity,

Your SCSU Executives