

## Strengthening Public Order, Enforcing the Canadian Criminal Code, and Adopting the IHRA Definition

Dear Toronto Police Services Board,

I am writing to express my concerns about the rise in pro-Palestinian protests, which have at times included anti-Semitic rhetoric and activities. While peaceful protest is a fundamental right, we must ensure that hate speech and violence, as defined by the Canadian Criminal Code and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism, are not tolerated.

I have personally felt the impact of these protests, as public disruptions have made it difficult for me to visit friends and family. Additionally, having grandkids in school who are targeted by terrorist attacks adds to the anxiety and fear within our community. These protests have affected not only the safety and security of our city but also the well-being of residents like myself and my family.

I want to express my appreciation to the Toronto Police for their ongoing efforts to keep the Jewish community in Toronto safe. I strongly support the implementation of a **\*\*zero-tolerance policy\*\*** for hate speech and violence at public demonstrations, with strict enforcement of the Canadian Criminal Code's provisions against hate propaganda and incitement. Adopting the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism will further guide law enforcement in identifying and addressing these issues effectively.

Police officers should receive mandatory training on anti-Semitism and hate crimes, including the IHRA definition and recognition of hate symbols and rhetoric, even in foreign languages. Bias awareness training is also essential to ensure fair and impartial enforcement.

I advocate for **\*\*safe access zones\*\*** around places of worship and community centers to protect vulnerable populations from targeted protests. Demonstrations should not obstruct public spaces or prevent residents from going about their daily activities.

Strengthening police-community relations and improving digital communication will help prevent misinformation and ensure swift, appropriate responses to incidents as they arise.

Thank you for considering these measures, and once again, thank you for your ongoing work to protect all communities in Toronto. I look forward to participating in this important consultation.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Lerner