The Toronto Police Services Board

To Whom it May Concern:

I have lived in Toronto my entire life. I grew up here, I went to school and University here, and I got married and raised my family here.

I have always been a proud Canadian and even more a proud Torontonian.

However, since October 7th I have become anxious and fearful, scared and extremely frustrated.

The blatant antisemitism spurred on by the “pro Palestinian” protests, and the media coverage these protesters and antisemites have received is horrifying. I must believe that inciting hatred and calling for the genocide of an identifiable group ARE severe offences and must be dealt with accordingly. In addition, a zero-tolerance approach toward any form of hate speech at public demonstrations must be enforced and perpetrators arrested and charged. This includes ensuring protests are not obstructing traffic or preventing people from going about their business. I believe that police should have the resources and abilities to impose safe access zones around places of worship, schools, and community service agencies to prevent them from being used as venues for protest. Finally, the Toronto police should have the power to apply a zero-tolerance approach to hate symbols / speech at any protest.

In conclusion, TPS should be given enhanced hate crime training that would equip all police to identify the tactics / symbols and propaganda necessary to be able to enforce hate laws.

Regards.

Rochelle Bowmile

[Personal information redacted – Board Office]