

February 6, 2017

## **DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENT AGAINST THE FORCES OF DISCRIMINATION, RACISM AND HATRED**

As educators and scholars whose teaching and research attempt to honour cultural memory and promote intercultural understanding, we see that it is our collective duty to speak out against the forces of discrimination, racism and hatred. It is thus with deep sadness that we respond to the act of terrorism committed at the Centre culturel islamique de Québec. We stand in solidarity with Muslim communities in Québec and across Canada.

The Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies also strongly condemns the US Executive Order, instituted on January 27, 2017.

We fully support the statement issued by Jamie Cassels on behalf of the university community: [www.uvic.ca/info/president/statements/quebec-us-order-30jan2017.php](http://www.uvic.ca/info/president/statements/quebec-us-order-30jan2017.php).

In addition to the concerns and sentiments conveyed in the President's statement we want to express our deep concern that the US Executive Order was implemented on International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD), a UN-designated memorial day that commemorates the genocide of six million Jews and other victim groups murdered in National Socialist Germany. As per General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/60/7), International Holocaust Remembrance Day furthermore establishes January 27<sup>th</sup> as an international day of commemoration on which we must reassert our commitment to human rights condemning "all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief, wherever they occur."

Moreover, we are deeply troubled by the official White House statement commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day in that it neither acknowledges Jewish people as the main victim group of National Socialism nor mentions antisemitism. Such intentional expressions of the "de-Judaization" of the Holocaust (Deborah Lipstadt) give great cause for concern as they encourage a public discourse that no longer safeguards against historical revisionism and antisemitism.



As a department, we are committed to create a safe learning environment that embraces inclusiveness and mutual respect while fostering diversity in all of its expressions and forms.

Sincerely,



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Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies

**Signatories:**

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