

Religious Hate Crimes

Mitigating the Threat of Islamophobic and Anti-Semitic Hate in Toronto



PRESENTER:

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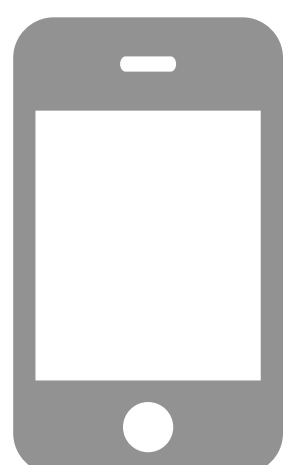
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ABSTRACT

Canada prides itself on being a diverse nation that cherishes all identities, yet an alarming number of hate incidents are reported every year (while many go unreported). Following two prominent disasters that affected places of worship – the 2017 Quebec City Mosque Disaster and the 2018 Pittsburgh Synagogue Disaster, this study explores safety and security actions taken by Muslim and Jewish institutions in the Greater Toronto Area. Drawing on the work of two major research projects published from the Master's of Disaster and Emergency Management Program, this study asks, “**What strategies can Muslim and Jewish communities adopt to mitigate the impacts of hate crimes in Toronto?**” This research works to offer recommendations for disaster management professionals and faith-based organizations to increase the capacity of socially vulnerable groups in developing community resilience.



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Hate Crimes continue to be a threat for places of worship in Toronto, however, **inclusive, flexible disaster management** practices can be used to reduce these threats.

Findings

Problem: Many Mosques and Synagogues do not have enough Disaster Planning in place

Problem: Religious communities feel that they are not being adequately supported by the Public Sector

Problem: Applying “One size fits all” solutions to Jewish and Muslim Communities does not work due to the uniqueness of both groups

Recommendations

Solution: We should broaden our understanding of Disasters to include Hate Crimes

Solution: Inclusive Disaster Management Practices can be used to promote Community-Driven Solutions

Solution: Disaster Managers and Faith-Based Organizations can use Flexible Solutions to accommodate different needs

BACKGROUND

In 2017, a hate-motivated attack left 6 Muslims dead and 19 others injured at a mosque in Quebec City. One year later, a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania faced a similar assault, where 11 Jews were killed and 6 others were injured. By highlighting the remarkable display of resilience demonstrated by both communities, we can apply best practices in disaster management to combat hate crimes in the Greater Toronto Area.

METHODS



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