

Dear Eastern Michigan University community,

As we continue to learn more about Friday's hate-filled massacre that has now claimed the lives of 50 innocent people attending prayers at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, we are again reminded of the horrors that hate and intolerance can manifest around the world. We join with all in our community in expressing sadness and anger at this vicious and tragic loss of life.

While this tragedy happened thousands of miles away, it directly impacts many people in the Eastern Michigan University community. We are home to many Muslim students and employees. They bring so much to our campus and add great richness and vitality to our diverse community. Given the events in New Zealand, many are now increasingly filled with fear -- an experience that unfortunately has affected many minoritized communities much too frequently as acts of hate and violence spread across our world.

We encourage students who are seeking support to contact [EMU Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#). On weekdays, students can make an appointment to talk to a counselor by calling 734.487.1118 during business hours. Students can access CAPS' after-hours phone support in the evenings and on weekends by calling 734.487.1118.

Now more than ever, we stand by those who are oppressed and who live in fear. There is no place for Islamophobia or any form of hate or racism in our world, or here at Eastern Michigan. We will continue to listen to you, to work with you, to stand together with you, and to speak out strongly when hate of any kind and in any form tears at one's purpose, at one's safety, and at one's sense of well-being and belonging in our special and caring community at Eastern.

James Smith
President

Devika Dibya Choudhuri, Ph.D., LPC
Chair, President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion