

Open Letter to Premier Ford About MPP Goldie Ghamari

November 23, 2023

Dear Premier Ford,

As you are undoubtedly aware, this situation in the Middle East has not only affected those with direct ties to the region but has also led to a disturbing rise in Islamophobia and anti-Semitism within our province. Islamophobia has impacted various aspects of society, from places of worship to workplaces, educational institutions (spanning from universities to elementary schools), and even into the fabric of our neighborhoods and daily lives.

Instead of contributing to the division and escalation of hatred, your government and caucus must acknowledge and actively address this growing issue and has a responsibility to combat hate and foster unity within our diverse communities.

In this context, we are particularly troubled by the actions of MPP Goldie Ghamari. The continued and blatant propagation of anti-Muslim rhetoric and Islamophobia by an elected official is alarming and unacceptable. This behavior has persisted for weeks without consequence.

The recent conduct of MPP Ghamari on social media platforms and in various media interviews is deeply troubling. Her repeated statements have attempted to provoke hostility towards and unfairly generalize and stereotype the entire Muslim community. Her approach in labeling Ontario's Muslim communities with terms associated with extremism is not only inappropriate but also harmful.

Ghamari's comment that Mr. Warmington's tweet about the Mosque would have been deemed racist in the past is accurate, precisely because it is racist and Islamophobic. And her making such statements, and her support of such statements by others, is a cynical attempt to exploit the surge in Islamophobia to demonize an entire community.

Ghamari has attempted to whip up fear of Muslim protesters invoking the name of God and calling out the phrase "God is Greater," to signify reliance on God against seemingly insurmountable odds. She has described Muslims praying in public spaces as "concerning," "colonization," and "conquering." She has attacked women who choose to wear hijab and amplified voices of extremists who are attempting to silence and defame Muslims.

Ghamari's rhetoric is dangerous.

No elected official should use their platform in this manner without being held accountable. The Ontario PC party needs to remove Ghamari from their caucus and the Ontario Legislature must censure this MPP for spreading hate and inciting violence.

Sincerely,

Dr. Yaser Haddara
Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Council