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Ottawa, ON
July 22, 2020

Mr. Arif Virani, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Virani,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada with the specific mandate to lead the Government's efforts on the important issue of combatting online hate.

I appreciate the in-depth discussions we at CIJA, together with our coalition partners, have been having with you on this subject. As you well know, this issue is of deep concern to the Jewish community.

We have recently experienced a worrisome uptick in antisemitic activities online, which has generated significant alarm within our community. I have attached some recent examples of this phenomenon, if only to give you a taste of the intensity and toxicity of the hate now exploiting social media platforms. Indeed, there has been a surge in all forms of online hate over the past while. In these troubled times, the hateful vitriol we are witnessing is especially problematic, insofar as the environment shaped by the pandemic is characterized by a general hyper-tension and sensitivity. We cannot afford to wait any longer to act.

We therefore, respectfully call on you to accelerate the process to formulate and implement the national strategy on online hate to which the Government of Canada has committed itself.

As always, we, along with our partners in the Canadian Coalition to End Online Hate, remain available and most willing to work with you to advance our shared objective. Together, we can take meaningful steps to make our Canada rightly celebrated for its commitment to diversity; safer and more just for all, particularly the identifiable and vulnerable groups who are the most common targets of hate and intolerance.

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Again, with much appreciation to you for your sincere engagement and with warm personal wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Shimon Koffler Fogel, President and CEO
Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

C.C.:

The Hon. David Lametti, P.C., M.P., Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P., Minister of Canadian Heritage
The Hon. Bill Blair, P.C., M.P., Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
The Hon. Bardish Chagger, P.C., M.P., Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth