Memorial for the Victims of the Attack on the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec

Be it resolved that the Arts and Science Council finds deeply regrettable and disquieting the January 29th terrorist attack at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec on January 29th of this year, that left six dead, eight injured, seventeen orphaned, and many more in trauma and fear. We extend our sympathy to the families, friends, and communities of the victims.

Although several weeks have passed since this incident, it remains crucial to reflect on in light of current political tensions, forced migrations, and ongoing conflicts in the world. Let us pay tribute to those who lost their lives and those who were traumatized in the attack.

One of the victims, Khaled Belkacemi, was a professor at l'Université Laval, and as fellow academics and administrators we share the same endeavour of learning, discovery, and education. He also died as a professor among, and along with, several other people in his community, reminding us of the close links any of us may share with our communities, just as we may hold ties to other institutions of learning. We are a part of our surroundings.

Let us disapprove of every act of oppression, violence, and terrorism but also take such heinous acts as reasons to hone our arguments for cooperation, collaboration, and dialogue, inside or outside the academy. Let us answer each act of violence with an ever firmer gesture of peace in our classrooms and in our community centres.

Let us remember that universities are havens of peaceful disagreement, playing a role in a whole society's growth. In this way, the university provides a ready model for peaceful interchange based around humility, openness, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Let us continue to reach out to our circles and impact those whom we can reach with messages of respect, peace, and love for our earth and all who dwell on it.

I would like to propose a moment of silence to remember the victims of January 29th.