

# Adding Hinduphobia In Anti-Racism Policy

Presented by – Vijaykumar Jain

Date - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023



**Canadian Organization For Hindu Heritage Education (COHHE)**

President – Ragini Sharma

Secretary – Vijaykumar Jain



# Consulting Other Organizations

- **Canadian Hindus for Harmony**
  - Convener Nayan Brahmhatt
- **Canadian Hindus for Harmony**
  - Director – Pradeep Khunger



# Hindus in Brampton

- Hindus are peace loving, inclusive, culturally and religiously open-minded citizens who contribute greatly to the economic, social, cultural life in Peel regions and overall in Canada.
- 20% of Brampton's population is practicing Hindu faith.
- City of Brampton is blessed with Several Hindu Temples.
- Several people from other places visit these temples and Hindus in Brampton visit temples in Mississauga and Toronto.
- Though Hindus wish good for all, there is sustained attacks on Hindus and Hindu temples since last one year.
- In September 2022, BAPS temple was desecrated with Hinduphobic graffiti, In the last month of February alone, Gaurishankar temple in Brampton and Ram Mandir in Mississauga were desecrated with Hinduphobic graffitis.
- The community has been traumatized by such attacks on their institutions and, religious and cultural identity.



# Hinduphobia

- There is growing Hinduphobia / Hindu Hatred / Anti Hinduism in Canada, especially in Peel region.
- Hinduphobia is a set of antagonistic, destructive, and derogatory attitudes and behaviors towards Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) and Hindus that may manifest as prejudice, fear, or hatred.” In other words, Hinduphobia is a negative visceral reaction, prejudice, and discrimination towards Hindus.
- Academic research on Hinduphobia in Canada is available on <https://cohhe.org/hindu-phobia/>
- We are deeply concerned about the labelling of these hate crimes merely as ‘acts of vandalism”



# Hinduphobia – contd.

- We started a petition to raise public awareness about the growing trend of hate-crimes against Hindus in Canada <https://chng.it/KjQJK9MCnr>.
- It has been signed by 46K – shows how upset the community is
- We gathered hundreds of testimonies from people about their experiences of Hinduphobia.
- Hindus are feeling unsafe
- Hinduphobia is included in the PDSB and DDSB's anti-racism policy, though it is not there in the Brampton city hall's Anti Racism policy. It does have antisemitism and islamophobia included.
- Denying Hinduphobia is itself a systemic racism.
- Thank you Mayor Brown and other councilors for recognizing Hinduphobia in the Press conference on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- Thank you Councilor Rod Power for acknowledging motion introduced by Mr. Nayan Brahmhatt on February 22<sup>nd</sup> in the city council meeting.



# Actions

- Motion – Recognize Hinduphobia
  - Add Hinduphobia in Brampton City's Anti-Racism policy.