

UNITED FOR ALL

Together we can overcome
hate and violence

Racism Has No Place In Our City

October 20, 2020

After four years, the long-awaited verdict in the trial of Ottawa Police Constable Daniel Montsion was delivered today. Montsion was charged with manslaughter, aggravated assault and assault with a weapon in relation to the death of Abdirahman Abdi. Montsion was found not guilty of all charges. The *United for All* coalition shares in the pain of our community today, as we again remember the loss of Abdirahman Abdi.

Following today's verdict, United for All representatives including Amira Elghawaby, Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, Michael Allen, Rawlson King and Yasir Naqvi issued this statement on behalf of the coalition:

"Today we recognize that the community is reliving the trauma of Abdirahman Abdi's death—pain that will last for many more years to come.

"Our thoughts are with the family, friends and loved ones of Abdirahman Abdi as they continue to grieve. We acknowledge that the outcome of this case will continue to put stress on the relationship between police and the community — specifically the Black, Somali, and Muslim communities, and those facing mental health challenges.

"Under the leadership of Chief Peter Sloly and his executive team, we hope to see continued progress that builds trust and mutual understanding between police and racialized members of our community. For United for All, we stand ready to support this work in the overall context of the coalition's mandate to build a strategy and programming that overcomes violence, hate and racism in our city.

"Ottawa has made incremental progress in building a more inclusive community—notably, with the creation of the Anti-Racism Secretariat over the past year. Additionally, United for All has brought organizations together to leverage resources and expertise, to listen to the lived experiences of people in our community, to research and collect data, and to plan for a city-wide response to hate and violence. However, we still have significant work to do.

"Let us continue the work, and find a way forward that sees us overcome racism and violence in Ottawa. Let's do this to honour the life of Abdirahman Abdi.

About United for All: United for All is a coalition of 44 organizations representing 150+ partners who are all committed to overcoming hate-based violence, racism, and extremism in East Ontario. Since 2016, this growing partnership has brought together social service agencies, faith-based organizations, policymakers, human rights groups, health providers, school boards and post-secondary institutions, grassroots social justice groups, criminal justice professionals, cultural groups and more – all with the common mission to build safe, compassionate, resilient communities for everyone.

United for All and our partners acknowledge the privilege to be operating on the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg. We recognize the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island who have been thriving on this land since time immemorial.

For more information on United for All, visit unitedforall.ca.

Abid Jan

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