



MHI President Mike Ward statement on 2017 National Housing Day incident

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2017 – OTTAWA

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Multifaith Housing Initiative,

As MHI celebrated our annual interfaith service in honour of our collective work in creating communities and National Housing Day, one of our Jewish Patrons was heckled as she shared a message about the act of groundless love and compassion. While the offending party claimed that his action was a political statement, he also admitted he knew nothing of the Patron other than the fact she was a Rabbi, which he believed made her an appropriate target for his behaviour. Therefore, we view this incident as an action of anti-Semitism.

As a faith-based organization that counts many religions and communities among its members and supporters, MHI embraces principles of connection, mutual support and cooperation among all people. Be assured that we will not tolerate behaviour of this nature in our space.

Please know that the Multifaith Housing Initiative works very hard to create an open, peaceful, and safe space for people of every religious background to work together in a spirit of unity and respect to serve the community of Ottawa. Moreover, we will continue to work with members of all faith communities to address Ottawa's affordable housing crisis. We have achieved so much together, and we look forward to working with every one of you to achieve so much more. And overcoming situations like the one we were presented with at this National Housing Day Event is an important aspect of that work.

Thank you for your support,

Mike Ward,
President, Multifaith Housing Initiative