

The Jewish Community Council of Montreal Calls for Commissioner's Resignation

November 30 2023

Since the terrorist attack on Israel on Hamas we have seen an unprecedented rise in antisemitism and repeated attacks on Jewish schools, synagogues and institutions. Our community is frightened. Children are scared to go to school and members of our community are hesitant to attend services.

At times like these we need leaders who will stand up against hatred while striving to build bridges between Montrealers of different religions and backgrounds. When she was appointed in 2021 as our City's first Commissioner to Fight Racism and Systemic Discrimination, Bochra Manai said, "I will be able to put forward my skills in developing strategies to counter discrimination, my leadership in putting into action anti-racist interventions as well as my strengths to raise awareness, develop tools and strengthen the city's capacity to fight against racism and discrimination."

The Commissioner's actions speak louder than her words.

Ms. Manai has attended pro-Palestinian rallies and made inappropriate posts on social media. Two weeks ago, our community called upon her to speak out against antisemitism: she remains silent while our schools and synagogues continue to suffer a wave of anti-Semitic attacks.

A Molotov cocktail damaged our entrance way on Monday. Leaders from across the political spectrum spoke out against this horrific act, and many took the time to visit our premises to express sympathy and solidarity. Ms. Manai's silence was deafening.

At a time of increased tension in our city we need a Commissioner to Fight Racism and Systemic Discrimination who is willing to stand up and be counted. In her actions and her words, the Commissioner has to personify the values that bring peace and safety to all Montrealers.

Ms. Manai does not have the credibility or the moral fiber to do the job. She should resign or be dismissed.

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For more information please contact:
5147396363 ext. 1218 - kalman@jccmontreal.org

