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**Statement from the Executive of the General Council of The United Church of Canada  
following recent incidents of hateful graffiti in Ottawa:**

As we gathered in Toronto for our fall meeting of the Executive of the General Council, we were horrified to hear about the recent incidents of racist graffiti in Ottawa.

Hateful words and symbols were spray-painted on five buildings in our nation's capital this week, including Parkdale United Church, the Ottawa Muslim Association, two Jewish institutions and a private residence.

The Executive members of The United Church of Canada strongly, and with one voice, denounce these incidents. We stand with anyone who is subjected to any form of racism and discrimination.

We reaffirm our commitment to continue to work for justice and to resist any form of structural oppression; we offer our prayers and support to all the faith groups that have been targeted, for we know that such hateful actions have no place in our Canadian society.

As a church, we commit ourselves again to working for a country of peace and justice for all people, and call on all people of faith and goodwill to take concrete, peaceful actions to support those who have been targeted by hatred and fear.

The Executive of the General Council

The United Church of Canada