

Trans Feminist Action Caucus Statement on Racist Flyers on Keele Campus

We, the Trans Feminist Action Caucus (TFAC) condemn the circulation of flyers created by Immigration Watch Canada (IWC) on the York University Keele campus and across York Village.

These flyers depict racialized students and immigrants as a threat to ‘white Canada’ and explicitly propagate white supremacist politics, ongoing colonization of indigenous lands and racist anti-immigration policies.

As women, trans, gender queer and gender variant members of CUPE 3903 we are deeply offended and appalled by the IWC’s racist statements, which target, demonize and intimidate immigrants and racialized communities on and around our campus. However, we also see this escalation of racist discourse on campus as an extension of two interrelated political contexts.

The first is York University’s failure to address systemic racism and the underrepresentation of minorities in its hiring practices, as well as the racial profiling of students of colour by campus security and police. The second context is the Canadian government’s ongoing campaign to restrict citizenship, immigration and deny legal status to political refugees and asylum seekers from communities of colour. Indeed, York University’s failure to strongly speak out against the presence of IWC on our campus reflects this troubling broader political climate of entrenched and accepted racism.

As such TFAC demands that the York University administration take firm steps to fight, condemn and eradicate racist discourse and organizations such as IWC from our campus. We also call on the University administration to prioritize resources towards and consult with relevant anti-racist, feminist, and indigenous student groups to address issues of systemic racism on campus.

Signed,

The Trans Feminist Action Caucus

[Unanimously approved at meeting on August 20, 2014]