



November 30, 2020

RE: Farmers Protests of New Delhi

In late September, India's parliament passed 3 laws that leave India's farmers, particularly Punjab and Haryana's farmers, vulnerable to being overthrown by large corporations. Following this, over the last two months, farmers have been conducting peaceful protests.

More specifically, over the last two days, thousands of farmers have continued their peaceful protest and marched to New Delhi asking for reform and reconsideration from the Indian Government's exploitative and dehumanizing laws. Although the protests were peaceful, the farmers were met with extreme violence and brutality by authorities. Thousands of farmers from Punjab and Haryana, alongside farmers from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, recently entered the capital, New Delhi, for the protest against the new farming laws. This is an issue that pertains to farmers all across India, where Punjab and Haryana are affected the most, but the effects will also be felt by farmers from other states such as farmers in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to name a few.

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU), Sikh Student Association (SSA), Erindale Punjabi Association (EPA), and Hindu Students Council (HSC) stand in solidarity with India's farmers and the affected communities at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). On behalf of the Sikh Student Association, Erindale Punjabi Association, and the Hindu Students Council, the UTMSU would like to make a donation of \$500 to support the farmers and their families.

One of the most powerful things we can do right now is to spread the much-needed attention on this ongoing brutality. As the President of the World Sikh Organization of Canada stated:

"We call on the Government of Canada to play an important role by raising concerns over the treatment of Punjab's farmers with the Government of India and to call for an end to the violence against them."

We urge you to take the time to raise awareness on this issue and contact your local Member of Parliament to raise your concerns. Demanding your representatives to ensure they speak on this issue to have the Canadian Government call on the Indian Government to end the violence being imposed on India's Farmers.

For more information on how to contact your Member of Parliament, please visit this website: ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search.

In Solidarity,

Sikh Students' Association (SSA)
Erindale Punjabi Association (EPA)
Hindu Students Council (HSC)
University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU)