

## **Our Commitment to Peaceful Protest and Lawful Dissent**

On behalf of the allied Freedom groups and organizations across Canada who assemble under Freedom Rising, we wish to state – for the public record – that we are committed to peaceful protest, lawful dissent, and the legal exercising of our enshrined Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Recently, several videos and messages from various individuals and organizations have emerged with the potential to incite "social unrest" by presenting the narrative that our country is on the verge of "civil war". While we recognize the seriousness of the current situation and witness the harms to individuals, families, businesses and the community at large by government actions over the past two years, we believe there are viable options to return Canada to a free and democratic state.

Some of the messaging is violent in nature to the extent that names and positions are identified, as is the concept of putting these people to trial and if found guilty, to death by "execution".

This is extremely dangerous territory and runs contrary to everything that Freedom Rising stands for. Individuals and organizations that are creating this narrative are wittingly or unwittingly advancing a shift in our political landscape such that those advocating for rights and freedoms will be deemed "domestic terrorists".

We believe governments who are responsible for the violations of our inherent rights and freedoms, and are at risk of being held to account, would like nothing more than to have those of us defending our rights and freedoms to be deemed as dangerous.

Given the challenging and polarizing climate prevalent today, we need to exercise extreme caution and discernment so that we are not fooled, misled, or seduced into violent action or reaction.

Those in the Freedom Rising movement do not believe in, advocate, promote or support any sort of violence. To maintain this moral high ground, and protect all Canadians from violence and retribution, we do not support anyone who advocates violence.

Our intention and purpose is specifically to inform, defend, and preserve the rights of ALL Canadians to freedom of expression, freedom of choice, and all other freedoms noted within our Canadian Charters of Rights and Freedoms.

We seek the peaceful return of all our enshrined Canadian Rights and Freedoms and do not believe that violence or the threat of violence is ever justified, even in the face of violence.

Sincerely.

Freedom Rising