



## **Submission to the Town of Oakville: Comments on Draft Bylaw, to protect safe access to vulnerable social infrastructure**

We appreciate the efforts of Oakville Town Hall Council in drafting the bylaws, and commend this strong first attempt. Our key comments are as follows:

1. **Definition of Specified Protest:** While the current focus is on restricting access to vulnerable places, the definition may permit protests that are offensive or disruptive without limiting entry. We recommend expanding the definition to include protests that are offensive, insulting, or likely to harm religious sentiments or disturb societal peace and harmony.
2. **Bubble Zone:** We urge increasing the protest distance from the proposed 20 meters to 100 meters, a standard successfully adopted by other municipalities.
3. **Fines and Penalties:** To effectively deter violations and cover the costs imposed on affected municipalities, we recommend escalating fines as follows:
  - \$1,000 per individual for the first offense.
  - \$10,000 per individual for the second offense.
  - \$100,000 (maximum permitted fine) per individual for the third offense.
4. **Enforcement Resources:** Adequate resources should be allocated to ensure effective enforcement of these bylaws. This will deter violations, minimize costs to taxpayers, and safeguard the peaceful enjoyment of vulnerable infrastructure within Oakville.

On behalf of Vishwa Hindu Parishad of Canada

Kumar Gyanchandani