WHEREAS on December 12, 2019 the Government of India passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) providing preferential treatment to certain religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan fleeing religious persecution in the process of obtaining Indian citizenship, while openly discriminating against Muslims, India’s largest minority;

WHEREAS the law comes as a precursor to the National Register of Citizens, under which anyone in India would be considered a non-Indian until they can provide documentation to prove their citizenship, leaving millions of Indians from socially marginalized and economically deprived backgrounds who have little chance of securing the documents to confirm their citizenship, to risk losing it altogether, being transferred to detention centers and being left stateless, devoid of citizenship and the privileges it affords;

WHEREAS these laws come right after the revocation of Article-370 in August, 2019 that granted a special status to Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in India along with the arrest of popular political leaders and activists without charge, their continuing detention, the world’s largest and longest internet shut down over the regions for almost 6 months, heavy military presence with strict curfews and frequent lockdowns;

WHEREAS independent India has seen the largest series of protests against the CAA and NRC and the other recent developments which have left many minority groups, especially Muslims, in India feeling vulnerable and targeted by their own government;

WHEREAS different social groups have come together peacefully to resist these regrettable acts that upend the long-standing fundamental ideas of equality, liberty, pluralism and secularism enshrined in the Indian Constitution;

WHEREAS in attempts to suppress these protests the government has employed draconian means, including unprovoked violence against peaceful protesters and university students leading to several dozen deaths, with thousands having been arrested, detained, and hospitalized across the country so far, with the numbers rising every day;

WHEREAS the recent developments in India have led to international outrage, with demonstrations and public statements by several activists and student groups in support of the peaceful protesters, and condemning the draconian means by the government;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement showing their unequivocal support for the Indian community on campus;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement showing solidarity with the peaceful protesters in India exercising their democratic right to dissent;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU release a statement condemning the unprovoked violence and the draconian means employed by the Indian government, especially the attacks on university students on their campuses;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UMSU work with the interested groups on campus to arrange an event surrounding interfaith dialogue and peace.