

Physician responds after Georgetown singled out in racist viral video

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A viral YouTube video of a woman at a Mississauga walk-in clinic demanding a "white doctor" has been making its way around news outlets and social media.

The woman attended the hospital seeking diagnosis and treatment of her son's reported chest pain.

(Video credited to YouTube Hitesh Bhardwaj)

"Oh my god, what type of horrible country do I live in?" she says. "Being white in this country, I should just shoot myself," says the woman in the video.

In the video, she continues to demand a "white" doctor who "speaks English" and was "born in Canada."

"My kid's at least part not-white, so can we get someone to see him that at least speaks English?"



File photo of Georgetown family physician and newly minted president-elect of the OMA, Nadia Alam.

Richard J. Brennan/Torstar Network

shouted the woman, as others in the waiting area called her out for her racist behaviour and ver-

biage.

At one point during her blatantly racist rant the receptionist makes a

very specific reference to Georgetown, suggesting the woman seek the racially-based service she

desires in the Halton Hills community.

"I'm not going there with all those P*ki doctors, and I don't have money to go Georgetown," she replies in the video recorded by a bystander.

The curious reference has at least one prominent Georgetown doctor wondering what she's talking about.

"I've seen this kind of incident before, but not in Georgetown. I'm lucky in Georgetown because it's a lovely place and the community has welcomed me. I've never felt belittled or devalued in any way," said Dr. Nadia Alam, a family physician in Georgetown and person of colour herself.

Alam, who is the newly minted president-elect of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), said she has seen and experienced similar racist behaviour while working in larger

population centres like Mississauga, Toronto and Ottawa.

"You do run across it there. I've had a patient refuse care from me because of my skin colour. And then they accepted care from me once they heard me speak because they said 'Oh, you don't have an accent, so you're OK,'" said Alam.

"When it does happen, you kind of feel like a deer in headlights. You freeze and a part of you starts denying it right away. Because this isn't Canadian, this is not how we see our society," added Alam when asked why these types of incidents aren't more heavily reported.

"When you see a video like this, you can't go into denial anymore. And when you start hearing from other doctors about their experiences, you can't ignore it anymore.

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