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by Equal Voice, a national multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of political office in Canada.

In a statement to the Georgetown Independent, Equal Voice Canada communications manager Nasha Brownridge said the organization is aware that delegates had differences of opinion regarding the protest events on multiple speakers.

"Equal Voice supports diversity of opinion and is proud of delegates who took part in the program, but unequivocally condemns any form of racism or hate," she said. "We did our best to provide a safe environment for all delegates to learn and participate fully in the program, but know that some delegates faced backlash from the public and their peers that negatively impacted them and their experi-

ence. We have asked delegates to reach out to us if they had such experiences so we can appropriately respond."

Brownridge said that Equal Voice had support workers and elders on site 24-7 for participants, in addition to having full-time equity and Indigenous coordinators on staff.

Anti-racism and anti-oppression training was also provided in advance of the event for staff, and on the first day of programming for delegates, she noted.

"Daughters of the Vote is still a new and growing program, and we are committed to learning from these experiences to make 2021 even better and to address the issues that were raised," she said.

Fellow Georgetown native and GDHS alumna Gemma Patey joined the Iyar-Singh sisters at the biennial event - and shared similar sentiments about the racial incidents

that occurred.

"Although I cannot speak for their experiences, I did witness some actions by the media, Equal Voice, the online community, and even some delegates that were racist, ableist, Islamophobic and overall negative towards marginalized delegates, who were told that this would have been a safe space for them to represent their communities and speak their truths," the 19-year-old said.

"It was evidence that there is still much improvement to be done in Canada, and that my fellow Daughters of the Vote and I will continue to advocate for and be that change."

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