



NASW-NYC's Condolences and Statement on Mass Shootings in Texas and Ohio

August 5th, 2019

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite”.

-Nelson Mandela-

The New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers offers heartfelt condolences to all those who lost their lives, their loved ones, and the communities impacted by yet another senseless act of gun violence this past weekend in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio. We are keenly aware that these murders are fueled by xenophobia, hate, and racism and we strongly condemn these actions. As a community of social workers, we continue to witness and treat the ongoing trauma and long lasting effects of these horrific shootings and other hate crimes.

Our chapter is also concerned with the ongoing and false rhetoric that is used in the media and by legislators almost each time mass shootings or crimes of this nature occur, which suggests that mental illness, not hate, racism, and unrestricted access to firearms, is the cause of these horrific incidents involving gun violence.

Regardless of individual beliefs regarding the debates connected to these issues as well as those used to justify such behaviors, we, as social workers, are called to value the dignity and worth of each person as well as to advocate for social justice. We call on every social worker, community organizer, politician, and individual to be involved in the efforts to promote social justice. We must hold ourselves, our communities, and our legislators responsible for addressing these issues and working together to enact policies and legislation to address them.

Those that have lost their lives are our brothers, our sisters, our mothers, our fathers, our children. Our communities and families are being torn apart, and generational trauma continues as a result of inaction. As a body of advocates, we stand firm in our position that these acts of violence are not acceptable, and we will stand in love and acceptance, not hate, as we continue to advocate and speak out for justice.

In solidarity and with deep sympathy,



Dr. Claire Green-Forde, LCSW
Executive Director-NASW-NYC