

August 7, 2019

Dear NASW Utah Members:

I am sure you share our shock, anger and horror at the mass shootings that took place over the weekend in El Paso and Dayton. The media has reported that the El Paso shooter, in his White Supremacist manifesto against immigrants from Mexico, released shortly before the shooting, used similar language as President Trump has used in speeches and tweets. It is my understanding that assault weapons were used in both mass shootings.

Beyond the expression of our feelings and the prayers for those in recovery and those who lost family members, what can we do? We would like to make a few suggestions.

First you can contact your United States Senators Mitt Romney and Mike Lee and ask them to immediately pass S. 43, the Background Check Expansion Act of 2019, S. 506 (Red Flag legislation) and an assault weapons ban. You can also ask your Congresspersons to immediately pass an assault weapons ban and the House version of the Red Flag legislation, HR 1236.

Contact information for your Senators and Congresspersons can be found below.

Secondly support efforts in your local community, the State of Utah and nationally to fight hate. There are numerous ways to do so. On a local level it could be as simple as contributing to an agency supporting the Latino, Muslim, African American, Hmong, Jewish, Native American or other minority group or attending a religious service or a community event of a group different than you. It could be joining an interreligious or interracial group. On a national level such groups as the Southern Poverty Law Center (<https://www.splcenter.org>), the ACLU (<https://www.aclu.org>) and the Anti-Defamation League (<https://www.adl.org>) fight discrimination and hate. You can join, get involved with, or make a contribution to one of these state or national groups.

Finally get involved in the 2020 national elections and work to register voters in underserved communities. We need to elect a President and Congresspersons who will use their voice and moral authority to fight hate and promote acceptance of people from all religions, racial and ethnic backgrounds, nationalities, sexual orientations and gender identities.

Let's use these multiple tragedies to redouble our efforts to fight hate and gun violence in our country.

Thank you for your support and membership.

Sincerely,

Madison Norris, MSW
Professional Development &
Community Engagement Coordinator

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Executive Director

UTAH NATIONAL DELEGATION

Senator Mike Lee (202) 224-5444 www.lee.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

Senator Mitt Romney (202) 224-5251 www.romney.senate.gov/contact-senator-romney

Congressman Rob Bishop (202) 225-0453 <https://robbishop.house.gov/>

Congressman Chris Stewart (202) 225-9730 <https://stewart.house.gov/>

Congressman John R. Curtis (202) 225-7751 <https://curtis.house.gov/>

Congressman Ben McAdams (202) 225-3011 <https://mcadams.house.gov/>

If you don't know who your Congressperson is, go to this website,
<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

To find local representatives visit <https://le.utah.gov/Documents/find.htm>

Original letter content adapted from NASW, Wisconsin Chapter

