

[NYAPRS Enews] NYAPRS' Statement in the Wake of the Buffalo Tragedy

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on behalf of
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NYAPRS' Statement in the Wake of Buffalo Tragedy

NYAPRS is deeply horrified and outraged by the racist violence that occurred last weekend in Buffalo. Our hearts are broken by the savagely premeditated murder of ten people and shooting of three others in the name of radicalized racism.

NYAPRS has strong ties to Buffalo; we have long and close relationships with people who both receive and provide services throughout the City and surrounding region. Our hearts are broken for your tragic loss of life as well as the loss of your sense of safety and security. We feel your hurt and pain and we are with you; and we are here for you. We stand by your side.

We must all work together to call out racism in all of its poisonous forms and be that voice that will no longer be silent. Let's embrace relationships, our commonalities, and embrace our differences. We are one humanity. Life, respect and kindness are deserved by all.

Our healing will only come through the support of others, our faith and through the actions of us all.

We must organize at the local level within neighborhoods, communities and local governments and establish sustained Grassroot Public Policy Institutes to promote visible and vigilant activism focused on meeting the needs of everyday people where they live, work, raise their children, worship and socialize.

We must promote community engagement on the local level on a daily basis to dismantle the violent disease of Racism, Racist attitudes, behaviors and hold all aspects of our communities responsible to building health and wellbeing within their cities, towns, villages.

We must be unrelenting in our demands on State and Federal governments to get this country in a position to develop a strong healthy multicultural democracy and to build relationships across our cultural and human differences as a way of life and embrace the rights of voice and choice.

We must urge our state and federal government to take swift action and enact strong gun control laws to protect our families, friends and neighbors.

Finally, we must be diligent in educating the public that malicious hatred, racism and violence have no connection to mental illness and trauma.

RESOURCES

- [Coping With Grief After A Disaster Or Traumatic Event](#)
- [Tips for Talking with and Helping Children and Youth Cope After a Disaster or Traumatic Event: A Guide for Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers](#)
- [Mass Violence Resources](#)
- NY Project Hope Emotional Support Helpline - ([1-844-863-9314](tel:1-844-863-9314)) can help you address the psychological stress caused by this tragedy.
- SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline - ([1-800-985-5990](tel:1-800-985-5990))
- Mental Health Effects of Racism - (https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/cultural_competence/the_mental_health_effects_of_racism.pdf)
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network - (<https://www.nctsn.org/>)