



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ACCESS, EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity Statement on the Tragedy in Orlando

Association expresses sympathy for the victims of the shootings and support for those who were targeted by race, religion and sexual orientation. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

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The American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity (AAAED) joins the nation in expressing its deep sorrow for the horrific tragedy that occurred this past Sunday morning, June 12th, at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. We especially send our condolences to the families and loved ones of those slain and wounded. This terrible massacre took 49 lives, wounded more than 50 others, and may have been specifically intended to terrorize the LGBTQ community.

It is important to recognize and acknowledge that the majority of those affected by this tragedy were those of the Latino community. Identity is inextricable from this brutality in Orlando. Although investigators are still seeking answers to the question of why the gunman committed this atrocity, a number of reports have indicated that he apparently had deep antipathy toward members of the LGBTQ community.

AAAED, as an organization committed to justice for all, and equal rights for all, and whose members work to promote these ideals daily in their professional lives, stand unequivocally with our LGBTQ colleagues. We reject discrimination and hatred in all of its manifestations. We believe as Dr. King taught that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," and that an assault on our LGBTQ brothers and sisters is an assault on us all.

We also believe that it would be wrong to compound this tragedy by allowing it to further inflame religious animosity targeted toward Muslims within our nation and around the world. The vast majority of Muslims embrace the values of peace and justice as do the vast majority of followers of other religious traditions. AAAED hopes that this unspeakable tragedy will not be used to indict entire communities simply based upon religious affiliation.

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Founded in 1974 as the American Association for Affirmative Action (AAAA), AAAED is a national not-for-profit association of professionals working in the areas of equal opportunity, compliance and diversity. AAAED has more than 40 years of leadership in providing professional training to members, enabling them to be more successful and productive in their careers. It also promotes understanding and advocacy of affirmative action and other equal opportunity laws to enhance the tenets of access, inclusion and equality in employment, economic and educational opportunities.