



Soto Zen Buddhist Association

Soto Zen Buddhist Association Statement on the Orlando Tragedy

As members of the Soto Zen Buddhist Association — along with communities and practitioners of all faiths — we stand in solidarity with those who seek to live in peace and nonviolence, and grieve for the loss of life in Orlando. In particular we extend our heartfelt compassion to Orlando’s Latino and LGBTQ communities, their friends and families.

In the *Dhammapada* Shakyamuni Buddha, says: “Hatred does not cease by hatred at any time. Hatred ceases by love. This is an eternal law.” While we cannot untangle the thoughts and emotions of the shooter, quite aside from political dimensions, this is a crime motivated by delusion. Our world will never be free from conflict, but we yearn for a human culture in which one person’s views will not lead to another’s death.

We reflect, too, that mass shootings in Orlando, Paris, San Bernardino, Aurora, Newton, and throughout the world are facilitated by the ready availability of assault-style automatic weapons. These weapons, designed for military application not for sport, do not belong on our streets.

In the name of those below, and all victims of gender violence, hatred, racism, and homophobia — our sisters and brothers — we call for people and our elected leaders to wake from delusion and vow to resolve our differences with the strength of nonviolence. In this spirit we call the names of the dead in Orlando:

Stanley Almodovar III, 23	Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz, 22
Amanda Alvear, 25	Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22
Oscar A Aracena-Montero, 26	Paul Terrell Henry, 41
Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33	Frank Hernandez, 27
Antonio Davon Brown, 29	Miguel Angel Honorato, 30
Darryl Roman Burt II, 29	Javier Jorge-Reyes, 40
Angel L. Candelario-Padro, 28	Jason Benjamin Josaphat, 19
Juan Chevez-Martinez, 25	Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30
Luis Daniel Conde, 39	Anthony Luis Laureanodisla, 25
Cory James Connell, 21	Christopher Andrew Leinonen, 32
Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25	Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21
Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32	Brenda Lee Marquez McCool, 49
Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez, 31	Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25
Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25	Kimberly Morris, 37
Mercedez Marisol Flores, 26	Akyra Monet Murray, 18

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Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo, 20
Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez, 25
Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36
Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32
Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35
Enrique L. Rios, Jr., 25
Jean C. Nives Rodriguez, 27
Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35
Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24
Yilmary Rodriguez Solivan, 24

Edward Sotomayor Jr., 34
Shane Evan Tomlinson, 33
Martin Benitez Torres, 33
Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega, 24
Juan P. Rivera Velazquez, 37
Luis S. Vielma, 22
Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez, 50
Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37
Jerald Arthur Wright, 31
Omar Mateen, 29

With palms together,
Hozan Alan Senauke
President, Soto Zen Buddhist Association

To see photos and read brief stories of those who died at Pulse:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/06/12/481785763/heres-what-we-know-about-the-orlando-shooting-victims>