



# National Black Sisters' Conference

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May 18, 2022

## STATEMENT REGARDING MASS MURDER IN BUFFALO

As the National Black Sisters' Conference we stand in solidarity and in grief with the families of the deceased; the good citizens of Buffalo, and people of good will around the world, who are grieving this senseless taking of innocent life in the name of white supremacy.

We are outraged and saddened by this irrational act of violence, which has caused untold suffering and loss for our nation and the loved ones of the deceased.

We speak their names that we might honor and never forget them.

***Aaron Sutter, 55; Pearly Young, 77; Celeste Chaney, 65; Ruth Whitfield, 86; Deacon Heyward Paterson, 67; Katherine Massey, 72; Roberta Drary, 32; Margus Morrison, 52; Andre Mackneil, 53; and Geraldine Talley, 62.***

They were ordinary people, who cared about their families, communities, and in large and small ways, tried to be responsible citizens and good neighbors. Now, countless lives have been shattered and are irreparable because of one act of hate-filled violence.

As people of faith we must cry out for justice! We stand in solidarity and prayer with the families of the deceased and we demand that our nation, once and for all, **ACT** to end gun violence, which is destroying communities of color; to denounce white supremacy and all groups that espouse hate and perpetuate violence against African Americans, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, the Jewish community, the disabled and anyone, who is labeled "different" and therefore unworthy to exist.

If we do not **ACT NOW** we will surely witness the demise and perhaps even the destruction of our nation, which professes to be “one nation under God with liberty and justice for all”.

It is time that we begin to live these words and not simply give lip-service to them.

It is time that we eradicate the cancers of racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and xenophobia.

It is time that we become the nation that our founders dared to envision even while enslaving Africans and annihilating Native Peoples.

We call upon our Catholic Bishops and all leaders of faith to work as diligently to protect the lives of the living as the lives of the unborn.

We call upon President Biden, Congress, and the Attorney General of the United State to pass sensible gun-control laws and to punish the perpetrators of hate and violence to the fullest extent of the law.

Finally, we call upon all people of good will to speak truth to power, and to work unceasingly for justice.

**We must ACT NOW for tomorrow may be too late.**

United in the struggle for justice,

Sister Josita Colbert, SNDdeN

President