

Kaslow, Nadine

From: Psychiatry Communications <PSYCHIATRY-COMMUNICATIONS@LISTSERV.CC.EMORY.EDU> on behalf of Kaslow, Nadine <nkaslow@EMORY.EDU>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 5:28 PM
To: PSYCHIATRY-COMMUNICATIONS@LISTSERV.CC.EMORY.EDU
Subject: [PSYCHIATRY-COMMUNICATIONS] In Solidarity With and to Honor Our Cousins Brutally Murdered in New Zealand

Dear Emory Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Family,

The following is a statement by the Hate Crime Response group within the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee (DISC) of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral health in response to the New Zealand terror attacks. We are dedicated to reaching out to our department when hate crimes occur locally, nationally and internationally. The DISC supports laws that protect the civil rights of religious freedom and opposes all public and private discrimination and acts of violence against those in our community and beyond whose religious beliefs and practices are different than the majority population.

We are horrified and saddened to learn of the horrific attack that occurred at Al Noor Mosque and the Linwood Islamic Center in Christchurch, New Zealand on March 15, 2019, which resulted in 50 deaths and approximately 20 injuries.

Among the victims were:

- father and son Naeem Rashid
- 50 year old academic from Pakistan
- Talha Rashid, 21, who was killed while trying to tackle the gunman
- members of the same family — Zeeshan Raza, his father Ghulam Hussain and mother Karam Bibi
- Atta Elayyan, 33, the goalkeeper for New Zealand's national futsal team, the Futsal Whites
- Mucaad Ibrahim ,only 3 years old, the youngest known victim of Christchurch's mass shooting who was sitting with his father and older brother during services and separated from his family after the gunman began shooting
- Khaled Mustafa and his son Hamza Mustafa, 14, a Syrian refugee, who came to New Zealand with his wife and three children last year; Mustafa's younger son Zaid Mustafa, 13, was hospitalized and is now in stable condition

We send our deepest condolences and thoughts of compassion to the victims, their families, loved ones and to the larger Muslim community including in Atlanta and in our department. As we learned last Friday, this news had a devastating impact on Muslims in our Atlanta community. Local Mosques and faith based private Islamic schools increased security for Friday prayer in order to protect all members of the community, including young children out of abundance of caution. Members of the Muslim community in Atlanta are worried about local hate crimes, as such threats have been made to local mosques on several occasions in recent years.

Hate crimes target core aspects of our identities as human beings and send a message that (one) is not welcome in our community leading to increased concern for security and safety. We condemn these acts and are committed to responding when these terrible events arise. Members of our

community who are victims of violent hate crimes can experience psychological sequelae in the form of anxiety, depression, anger, post-traumatic stress, lower self-esteem, and distress. The American Psychological Association as well as American Psychiatric Association encourage those impacted to reach out to supportive friends, family, and other community agencies. It is also recommended that media exposure be limited in order to prevent further distress. Professional help from mental health professionals and local Muslim and Interfaith communities can also be accessed if desired by people impacted by these hate crimes.

Please remember those who lost their lives and were injured and consider ways in which you can reach out to help. Be sure to reach out to those people in our circle who have been most impacted by this horrific hate crime. In addition, below are some resources for helping the broader community that we thought might be helpful.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/15/us/iyw-help-new-zealand-terror-attack-victims-trnd/index.html>

In Solidarity,
DISC Members



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
SUBCOMMITTEE

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