



Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development

A division of the American Counseling Association
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2019-2020
AMCD Executive Council

Statement from the AMCD President in Response to the Shootings in Mississippi, Texas, and Ohio

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The Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, a division of the American Counseling Association, send our deepest sympathies and warmest condolences to our family and friends in Southaven, MS, El Paso, TX, and Dayton, OH. We condemn the cowardly, evil, senseless violence, and mass shootings that has taken the lives of 33 individuals within the past week at a Mississippi Walmart, a Texas Walmart, and in the Oregon District in Ohio. We also condemn the senseless violence and shootings everywhere throughout the United States and the world. We are wishing our families and friends peace to bring you comfort, courage to face the days ahead, and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.

AMCD agrees with Dr. Arthur C. Evans Jr., CEO of the American Psychological Association, where he stated, “Blaming mental illness for gun violence is simplistic, inaccurate — and prevents us from solving the problem.” AMCD is charged with the responsibility of defending human and civil rights as prescribed by law. We will continue to work tirelessly to encourage changing attitude and enhancing understanding of cultural diversity by, but not limited to:

- Recognizing the human diversity and multicultural nature of our society;
- Enhancing the development, human rights, and the psychological health of ethnic/racial populations and all people as critical to the social, educational, political, professional, and personal reform in the United States and globally;
- Identifying and working to eliminate conditions which create barriers to the individual development of marginalized populations;
- Developing, implementing and/or fostering interest in charitable, scientific, and educational programs designed to further the interests of marginalized populations;
- Securing equality and access of treatment, advancement, qualifications, and status individuals and families in counseling, wellness, and mental health work.

We are all charged with doing justice and loving kindness by advocating and developing interventions and strategies at the interpersonal, intrapersonal, institutional, community, public policy, and international/global levels. An example at the public policy level is to shift our focus more on the gun violence and changing the rules, laws, and policies that allow civilian access to assault weapons and other firearms that impact the safety of our communities. We must continue to advocate and put pressure on our elected officials to develop gun control legislation at the federal level rather than blaming mental illness for mass shootings and gun violence! As I conclude, in the words of Nelson Mandela, “May your choices reflect your hope, not your fears.”

Taunya Marie Tinsley, Ph.D., D.Min., NCC, LPC
President, AMCD 2019-2020

Some resources to support communities in pain and for counselors when working with clients and communities after mass shooting and racial trauma:

- [Gun Violence Trauma](#)
- [Facing the Realities of Racism](#)
- [Coping in the Aftermath of a Shooting](#)
- [APA Resources for Coping with Mass Shootings, Understanding Gun Violence](#)
- [Addressing Race and Trauma in the Classroom: A Resource for Educators](#)