



Karol V. Mason
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May 19, 2022

To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Mass Shootings in America

This weekend, we witnessed a string of mass shootings in eight cities that killed 17 people and injured 65. This gun violence causes serious harm to people, their families, our communities, and the country. As advocates for justice, we must do everything in our power to ensure that nobody else suffers from acts of hate and violence.

These disturbing acts of violence are heartbreaking, but hardly shocking when you consider how mainstream expressions of hate have become in our society. When bigoted conspiracy theories circulate unchecked, the frequency and intensity of hate crimes increases. As a free society, our most powerful answer to hate speech is action—using our voices to combat white supremacy and violent extremism.

As a community focused on diversity, equity, integrity, and respect, acts of hate—fueled by racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, white supremacy, and bigotry—are traumatic and antithetical to our ideals. We are committed to celebrating diversity and confronting hate and the ideologies that enable it.

There were poignant acts of heroism amid this weekend's terrible tragedies. In Buffalo, Aaron Salter, a security guard and retired Buffalo Police Officer, confronted the shooter, likely saving lives as he lost his own. In California, Dr. John Cheng was killed putting himself in the line of fire to save others. We're immensely grateful to these heroic individuals and extend our deepest condolences to those who lost loved ones.

Watching events like these unfold can be upsetting. I urge you to ask for help if you need support. Students can set up a confidential meeting with a trained mental health professional, free of charge, through our [Wellness Center](#). Faculty and staff can access free, confidential, emotional health, and wellness services through the [CUNY Work/Life Program](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason".

Karol V. Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice