



Commonwealth of Kentucky

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

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Statement on deaths in Orlando, Fla., by Chair George Stinson and Executive Director John Johnson on behalf of Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

“Those who hate are often afraid of others who are different from themselves. We should not have to endure the treachery that such fear-based hatred of others can bring.

“The world awoke on June 12, 2016, to learn of the cowardly slaughter in Orlando, Florida, of 49 innocent, unarmed people who died for no reason other than who they were perceived to be in the mind of the person who murdered them.

“A year ago this month, Charleston, South Carolina, awoke to such a nightmare.

“We join Orlando in mourning the loss of so many and we join Charleston as a city still in mourning, each due to one person with fear of others and hate his heart. As Americans, we stand firm in our dedication to creating a society that needs not fear hate and violence.

“On behalf of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, we denounce any acts of violence against people due to their race, religion, national origin, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity. We denounce all acts of violence, bullying, terror, and murder for any reasons. We encourage others to speak out against hate and limiting access to types of weapons that can destroy so many lives.

“We come together as Kentuckians but beyond that as members of humanity to affirm that we must respect and protect one another from people who let their fear turn to hate. We must combat the ignorance that leads to this kind of fear and resulting hatred and the slaughter of other human beings.”