

Statement Condemning Another Weekend of Hate and Violence in Laguna Woods, CA and Buffalo, NY

SDSU University Senate Officers are appalled and heartbroken to learn about another weekend of violence in California and other areas of the U.S. The politically motivated May 15th Laguna Woods, CA Church Shooting by Chinese American David Chou against Tawainees congregants resulted in the death of one man, and the wounding of five other Asian Americans who were attending a church luncheon. The May 14th Buffalo mass shooting resulted in the senseless murders and woundings of thirteen innocent people who were going about their daily lives at a grocery store when they were attacked. The suspected killer, Payton Gendron, is the 18-year-old white male author of a 180-page racist manifesto. Gendron drove over 200 miles to stake out the store and other sites with the explicit intention of killing as many black people as he could. He also had the audacity to live-stream his despicable killings.

While we abhor what Gendron and Chou did, we feel it is a grave error to perceive these incidents as individual events because we know the perpetrators of these hate crimes. We must understand these acts of domestic terrorism within the larger context of racially motivated crime, past, and present, in our country. These incidents are directly connected to South Carolina church shooter Dylann Roof, the New Zealand mosque shooter Brenton Tarranto, and other hate crimes and racism that produce murderers, like Patrick Crusius, the white man who killed 23 Mexican Americans in El Paso, Texas, on August 23, 2019, and Robert Aaron Long who plead guilty to the 2021 killings of eight people at Georgia spas staffed and run by Asian American women. The real underlying problem is that these men are cultivated by our history and culture, and then emboldened by current inequalities and politics; we must all work to change these dynamics in order for any of us to feel safe.

As educators and scholars at SDSU, through our teaching, research, and service, we have the responsibility and moral obligation to serve our students and community by challenging racism and the culture that creates it. We must stand and work against the hatred born out of inequalities and politics by creating learning environments where all can feel safe and welcome. Standing by our [SDSU Diversity Equity and Inclusion Statement](#), and upholding our [Principles of Community](#), it is critical that each of us utilize tools to provide more than lip service about violence and hatred. We encourage all members of our community to [subscribe to the Center for Inclusive Excellence \(CIE\) Newsletter](#), and to learn from and utilize the following CIE/campus resources:

- Resources in Response to Incidents of Racial Violence [Toolkit]:
https://sacd.sdsu.edu/diversity-resources/resources_response_racial_violence

- Resources for anti-oppression, inclusive communication, student support, teaching, and more: <https://sacd.sdsu.edu/cie/cie-resources>

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