



JOINT STATEMENT

Regarding the Charleston and Pulse Massacres,
the Alexandria and San Francisco Shootings,
and the Upcoming Summer of Love

Last week saw the one year anniversary of the massacre at the Pulse night club in Orlando, FL on Latin Night. Some 49 people, most young, LGBTQ, and Latinx, lost their lives to hate. Just a few days later in San Francisco, a UPS driver opened fire at his workplace, killing four, including himself. That same day a gunman in Alexandria, VA opened fire on congressional representatives practicing on a baseball field: many were wounded; one remains in critical condition. And Saturday, June 17th brought the two-year anniversary of the Charleston Church Massacre in which nine African Americans worshipping at the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church were gunned down by a white supremacist who sought to incite a race war.

Regardless of motive, or weapon, or number of victims, all murders are reprehensible, and should continue to shock, even as they become less and less surprising.

On the eve of LGBTQ Pride weekend in San Francisco and the 50th Anniversary of the Summer of Love, we call for all community members, across the spectrum of political belief and personal identity, to embrace what unites us with more passion than we are drawn to what divides us. And to act on that embrace of love to create equitable and just communities. Violence is never a solution. In almost every dilemma, love—whether of peace, of justice, of community, or of family—always is.

As organizations founded on the respect for human dignity and the value of equity, we know the power of communities, united. We invite you all to join us at the upcoming SF LGBT Pride gatherings for allies and LGBTQI community members of all backgrounds: come to pre-Trans March youth activities, an LGBTQ family brunch the morning of the Dyke March, or march with us at the San Francisco's LGBTQ Pride Parade on Sunday. See ourfamily.org for event details or sf-hrc.org for more information.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renata Moreira".

Renata Moreira
Executive Director
Our Family Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Belinda Christian".

Susan Belinda Christian
Commission Chair
San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Our Family Coalition (OFC) advances equity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) families with children with support, education and advocacy. For 20 years, OFC has been working to create an inclusive and just world where all LGBTQ families have visibility and opportunities to thrive as valued participants in our schools, institutions, and communities throughout California.

San Francisco Human Rights Commission advocates for human rights and enforces non-discrimination laws as a municipal enforcement agency in the City and County of San Francisco. For nearly 50 years, HRC has grown in response to San Francisco's mandate to address the causes of and problems resulting from inequity, intolerance and discrimination.