



**STATEMENT OF HIS BEATITUDE
METROPOLITAN TIKHON
ON THE ORLANDO SHOOTINGS**

The Orlando tragedy grieves us all. We grieve for those who were killed in this act of hate and terror. We ask for God's healing power for the wounded. We pray for the families and communities of those killed and wounded, for the people of Orlando, for the people of our nation.

The federal, state, and local agencies and officials are acting to respond to the aftermath of the mass killing. We pray for them as they apply competence and collaboration to this human trauma and tragedy.

We join the many religious leaders - Christian, Jewish, and Muslim - who are raising their voices to express horror at the violence and the hatred behind the violence.

Together with many people of faith we repudiate the use of religion to justify and promote hatred and violence. While the use/misuse of Islam confronts us with a global challenge, no religion is exempt from such manipulation. We join with all those religious leaders who promote and advance respect for human life. We see in each human being the image and likeness of God. We decry hatred and violence as ultimate assaults on God's intention and love for each man and woman.

At this time of national trauma and grief, doubt and questioning, we call on the better angels of our human nature to guide us toward sanity and sobriety, and the common ground of mutual support and love.

With Love in Christ,

†TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada