



Karol V. Mason
President
212-237-8600 | president@jjay.cuny.edu

November 21, 2022

To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Colorado Springs Shooting

On Saturday, five people were killed and 25 were injured at ClubQ, an LGBTQ+ nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This unthinkable act of violence will likely strike a painful nerve in us all—especially members of our LGBTQ+ community—leaving us wondering: When will this stop? When will enough be enough? What can I do?

I can't answer those first two questions—I wish I could—but I can answer the third question. As a community united in the rejection of discrimination in all its forms, when we see hatred and intolerance in the world around us, it's our job to shed light on that darkness with knowledge and compassion.

We're all frustrated, upset, and angry every time we see more innocent lives taken by gun violence, but I urge you not to become numb or pessimistic toward this critical plight. The vast majority of people in our society want to end these heartbreaking acts of hate. We need every voice unified against homophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, bigotry, and any ideology that diminishes another person's humanity.

Students shaken by this event 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, wellness services through the CUNY Work/Life Program.

When dangerous people, filled with hateful beliefs, use guns to commit horrific acts of violence, the ripple effect of terror reaches us all. That's why, in this week of Thanksgiving, I ask that we all continue our efforts to denounce hate, challenge intolerance, and strive for a world based on fairness and peace.

Thank you,

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

Karol V. Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 | www.jjay.cuny.edu