

S.T.O.P. has jointly released the following statement in response to acts of mass violence in so many communities:

Who We Are

The Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (S.T.O.P.) is a coalition offering support, outreach, and lived experience from individuals directly impacted by and responding to terrorism and mass violence. We are an international network of survivors and nonprofits that have come together for advocacy, prevention, and peer support to promote long-term recovery and resilience to triage and address the multi-layered impacts of targeted violence and preventable mass-scale tragedies.



A Decades-Long Problem

This is not the first time we have seen our communities, our families, devastated by mass violence and tragic loss of life, young and old. As survivors, we have experienced this firsthand, the pain, the grief, the injury, the long-term ripple effects, the layers of emotion of losing a loved one and of surviving a trauma many could never imagine, and which could have been prevented. So many of us directly impacted by these tragedies, and others who feel our pain, have made tremendous efforts to move the needle and enact change. Listen to the voices of those pleading and advocating for change. We have now witnessed decades of inaction on the policy level. We have observed decades of continual acts of targeted violence and inhumanity.

Call to Action

We are calling for advocacy and prevention to ensure that no more families and communities have to endure the pain of this kind of trauma and loss. We are calling to our society to commit to long-term healing for families of those impacted by terrorism and mass violence. If you are feeling helpless now, hopeless that things will never change, we want to tell you there are so many ways you can make a difference.

STOP and think. **START** thinking together.

STOP the arguing. **START** taking responsibility.

STOP the inhumanity. **START** addressing mental health issues in our society and providing timely support to those in need.

STOP focusing on the fringes and pay attention to the elephant in the room. **START** systemic change to correct the many factors causing this problem.

STOP senseless violence killing our families and causing long-term trauma and grief. **START** enacting effective prevention measures on state and federal levels.

STOP feeling scared and being silent. **START** asking for help. If you suspect something, even in your own family, reach out to someone you trust.

STOP feeling like we can't solve this problem. **START** turning up the volume—talk about this problem and keep getting louder.

Together we can STOP the violence. But be mindful that, even if the violence stops tomorrow, we will continue our work, because the recovery, the need for long-term healing, the pain does not end. Our survivor community is finite now, but the degrees of separation are diminishing. We are cardholders to a club we never wished to belong to. This club has an inexcusably high price. If we don't stop the violence now, you may hold the card next.

Here are 3 ways to START taking action right away.

Talk. Speak out about this issue and propose solutions

Educate. Know the facts around mass violence and share them with others

Care. Show compassion, empathy, and proactive listening.

Remember to check in with yourself, check in with others, and get involved with something positive in your community.

If you or someone you know is in immediate need of assistance, please utilize the 988 Crisis Lifeline by dialing 9-8-8 on your phone or visiting 988lifeline.org. Help is available 24 hours a day.