



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

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JCRC Stands With Community Under Siege

JCRC today mourns the victims of last night's horrific shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston, South Carolina. We share our condolences with their families and stand in solidarity with the African American community and AME churches across the nation.

The Emanuel AME Church holds an important place in American history and life, serving as South Carolina's oldest active African American congregation and one of the largest in the state. Not only did this horrifying violence happen inside a house of worship, but one of the murder victims was a State Senator who had recently made clarion calls and legislative action to end police bias. We are deeply concerned about this brutal attack and alleged hate crime. Acts to terrorize African Americans have no place in our society, and JCRC hopes and expects that the assailant will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

We applaud the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, the FBI, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina for opening a hate crime investigation. Still, more must be done proactively to prevent these tragedies. The current spike in violent acts targeting African Americans must be vigorously deterred. We unequivocally support the African American communities that find themselves under siege, and join in the call for their basic right to fairness and justice.

JCRC links with all communities of faith and ethnicity that oppose these horrendous acts. We offer our condolences to the families and continue to decry hatred in all its forms.

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