



APsAA Issues Statement Addressing Recent Hate Crimes and Political Rhetoric

New York – NY – October 31, 2018 – “Following a horrifying week of news about pipe bombs mailed to leaders in the Democratic Party, members of the media, and philanthropists, this past weekend there was an anti-Semitic attack during a religious service that killed 11 worshippers. This follows a shooting earlier in the week that is also being investigated as a hate crime where two African-Americans were killed in a parking lot while shopping.”

“Our hearts and thoughts are with the surviving families, those who were injured, and all who have been traumatized by these acts of prejudice and hatred.”

“As psychoanalysts we know from both daily clinical work and research that hate speech and hate crimes traumatize members of the targeted groups and also to the public at large. Violent words and actions cause harm not only to those who were present, but trigger symptoms for victims of past trauma, particularly the trauma of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, homophobia, and misogyny.”

“The American Psychoanalytic Association (APsAA) strongly urges President Trump, our leaders in Congress and across the country to speak out loudly, boldly and specifically against this kind of hatred and violence and take urgent steps to tone down the divisive political rhetoric.”

Lee Jaffe
President, American Psychoanalytic Association

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