

Editor's note: The mass shooting that occurred in the early morning hours of Sunday, July 12th at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando elicited many responses. There is still much to be said, much to be examined and analyzed. The following are a few reactions that were posted on facebook on the day following the massacre.



*As I grieve with those saddened by the blatant injustice and homophobia that led to so much death and hurt in Orlando,*

I am overwhelmed by despair and feel derailed. I also feel that I need assert my queerness more strongly...I looked through some photographs from the 1980s this afternoon and this one is timely. Since the LA Pride Parade took place today (June 12th), here's a 30 year old photo (1986) of Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos marching, asserting our right to be Brown and Queer and making ourselves visible.

—Lydia Otero

I'm still in shock and revulsed by the hate we humans can harvest for a multiplicity of reasons and without reason. Too many people have lost their lives, leaving gaps in our midsts and in our heart. May the creator fill our world with love, peace, and energy to deflect harm based on our perceived differences. Los de Orlando-¡aquí y siempre presentes!

...while the news spins all of the terrorism aspects of a possible ISIS connection don't get distracted or get it twisted. This year alone, over 200 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in legislatures across the country. And some have passed! These bills were not introduced by Muslims.

LGBTQ Americans have been terrorized by good church going God fearing fellow Americans for centuries. We, LGBTQ people, so many of us have already been beaten, raped, jailed and murdered before this. And sadly, more of us will experience this after this terrible act.

Terrorism has come from and continues to spew from American pulpits. I imagine that even today on a Sunday morning, some pulpits right here in Arkansas, continue and will continue to inspire and propagate the ideas that breed such awful violence against the very lives of LGBTQ Americans.

Gun law reform is necessary but not enough. As long as LGBTQ people are not fully vested as full and equal citizens under the laws of this nation an avenue remains for these so called "legitimate attacks" from religious communities that gives some permission to actively harm through word, law and deed LGBTQ people.

—Randi Romo 06.12.16

A sad day, and on a night that was Latina night in a month of pride; the parade in LA is just lining up & I hope people will remember what that & "Latin night" really mean; dancing is political, music/art are political, because we were outlawed from doing it not so many decades ago. Condolences to the victims & families---Hate crimes are real, mental illness is real, & homophobia is real. In combination, with or without weapons, these are now part of life in the US & globally...Somedays, Many days, Love trumps hate...

—Deena J. González

For Orlando  
something deep within us says  
we should not be meeting like this  
some worm curled deep in our brains quivers  
when we sit too close or  
dare kiss while standing on the street  
that poison dart shot into our hearts long ago  
reminds us we don't deserve our own lives  
so we dance  
to free ourselves of the prison others build around us  
we dance  
the music so loud  
all doubt is shaken loose  
we laugh together  
we hold each other  
we hold  
each other  
to say  
we are free  
we are love  
love is free  
we  
are  
free



—Jo Reyes-Boitel

