



## A Call to PRAYER and ACTION

### **Church Women United stands in solidarity with the mass shooting victims, families, and the Buffalo community**

Church Women United shares in the grief and mourning with the City of Buffalo, family and friends of the innocent lives lost and injured due to the mass shooting at the Tops Supermarket. Our hearts are forever broken over the unimaginable senseless act of hate that shook our nation.

I have struggled with emotions of hurt, anger and fear since the mass shooting took place in Buffalo. I know the Almighty God reminds us *“Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. Isaiah 4:10.* Let us continue to pray that God remains near and ever-present in our lives daily.

It took me a while to wrap my head around this heinous act of hate. Each time I began to write this letter I was overcome by tears and I was unable to gather the right words to address the despicable act of white supremacy violence that took the lives of 10 innocent people and injured 3 in the City of Buffalo, but silence is complicity, and I will not continue to be complicit while God’s people are being stalked, hunted, terrorized and murdered by individuals in our society who have perverse ideologies.

We must address the realization that “Racism is a Public Health Crisis” declaration. It has never been clearer to me that gun violence is also a public health crisis; one fueled by racism, bigotry, and hatred. The surge of hate groups and the increasing numbers of hate crimes in the United States is an epidemic. The mass shooting in Buffalo reminds us to remain awake in these dark times. Sadly, as a nation we have been here before and must never grow numb to the reality of hate crimes that target the black and brown community.

So, what do we do now? How do we eradicate racism and violence in our community? Church Women United we must continue to drive our vision, mission and core values to help us influence and produce the change we need to see in collaboration with our partners and local community. Let us turn our words into ACTION. We have talked enough and now it’s time to do something. If we do not act, we will continue to see more racially motivated mass killings. We have all power in our hands and feet. *“They that wait on the Lord, those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint”.*

We must drive out hate with love. We must promote our mission. We must not become weary due to evil. Let us continue to tear down walls of hate and build bridges of love for all people.

Let us love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Grace, Peace and Love,

*Mira J. Washington*

Mira J. Washington  
National President

***'Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.'*** He also said, ***'I have decided to stick to love...Hate is too great a burden to bear.'*** Rev. Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr