

# 5th Virtual National Town Hall On Mass Violence



February 23, 2023

**Hate-motivated Mass Violence Crimes:  
Addressing Victim, Survivor & Community Impact**

# 5th NATIONAL TOWN HALL ON MASS VIOLENCE

*Sponsored by the*  
**National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center**

*with support from*  
**U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime**

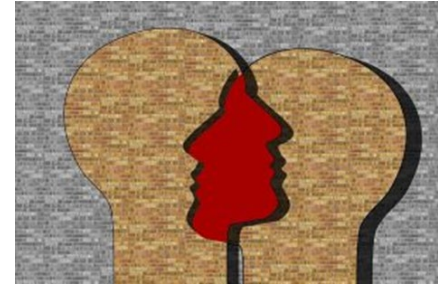
*This product was supported by Cooperative Agreements #2017-MU-GX-K114 and #2020-V7-GX-K002, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*

# Housekeeping Announcements

- This National Town Hall will be recorded, with the recording, slide deck and additional resources available at [www.nmvvrc.org](http://www.nmvvrc.org).
- Thanks to many of you who sent questions for our presenters in advance – we will save time at the end to answer as many as possible.



# Trauma Cue Warnings



- We will refer to several mass violence incidents as examples but will *not* discuss specific details of the events.
- Several media images on slides reference mass violence events.

# Learning Objectives

- Identify the scope and prevalence of mass violence crimes motivated by hate.
- Describe the individual and collective impact of hate-motivated mass violence crimes.
- Identify effective strategies and skills to address community impact and build resilience.
- Identify effective strategies and skills for victim/survivor assistance and services.

# National Town Hall Presenters

## **Anne Seymour**

NMVVRC Associate Academic Program Director & Moderator

## **Eugenia Pedley**

OVC Senior Program Manager  
USDOJ Office for Victims of Crime

## **Dr. Alyssa Rheingold**

NMVVRC Director of Preparedness, Response & Recovery Division

## **Navi Gill**

Wisconsin Sikh Community Survivor, NMVVRC Stakeholder

## **Dr. D. Fredrica Brooks-Davis**

Founder and Executive Director of Restoration Center, Inc.

## **Dr. Puni Kalra, Clinical Psychologist**

Executive Coach & Consultant in Leadership Development, Community Organizer & Activist (Sikh Healing Collective)

## **Maggie Feinstein, Director**

10.27 Healing Project (Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting)

# Welcoming Remarks

*Eugenia Pedley, Senior Program Manager  
USDOJ Office for Victims of Crime*



Office for Victims of Crime  
**OVC**

*Alyssa Rheingold, Ph.D., Director*  
*NMVVRC Preparedness, Response & Recovery Division*



**Email:** [rheingaa@musc.edu](mailto:rheingaa@musc.edu)



# What is a Hate Crime?



# Hate Crime vs. Hate Incident

Hate Crime

Hate Incident

# Hate Crimes & Incidents on the Rise

- **32% increase** of race/ethnicity/ancestry-based crimes in 2020 from 2019
- **49% increase** of Anti-Black or African American hate crimes in 2020 from 2019 (continues to be the largest bias crimes)
- **77% increase** anti-Asian incidents hate crimes in 2020 from 2019
- **34% increase** in antisemitic incidents in 2021 from 2021 (with physical assaults increased by 167%)

Hate Crime Statistics, 2020 (FBI, 2021)  
Anti-Defamation League, 2022

# MVI: Terrorism & Hate Crimes

- People are targets because of...
  - Who they are - race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification
  - What they believe - religion, political affiliation, ideology
  - What they do - government workers, company worker, elected officials, law enforcement, military, physicians
  - Where they live - citizen, resident, event participant, congregant, member, customer
- Goals
  - Inspire persistent fear and terror in all members of the group
  - Force them to significantly change their lifestyles and behavior
  - Erode confidence in societal identity, institutions, and customs
  - Spawn social or political change
- Difficult to alter your target status

# Unique Aspects of Hate-based MVIs

Hate-based MVIs have a long-term impact on individuals and communities

When a hate-based MVI occurs in a place perceived as safe and sacred such as a church, mosque, or synagogue that can significantly complicate recovery

# Examples of Some Recent Hate-based MVIs

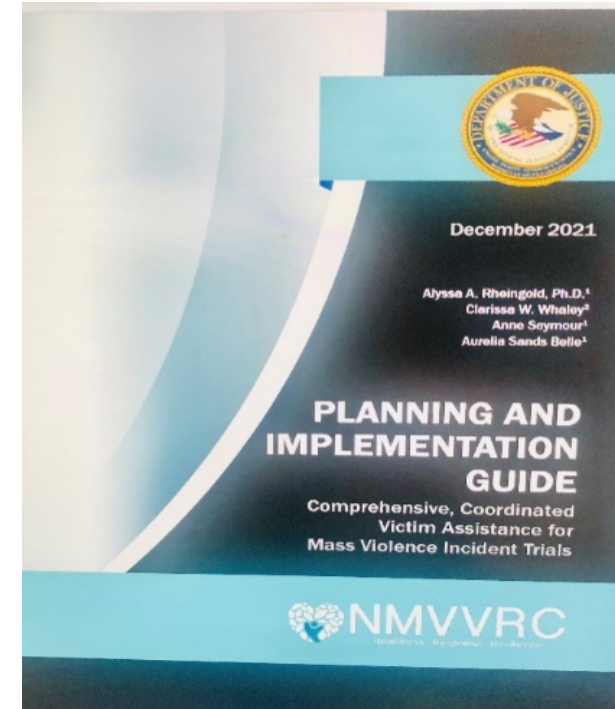
- Sikh Temple of Wisconsin Shooting, 2012
- Isla Vista Shooting, 2014
- Charleston Mother Emanuel AME Church Shooting, 2015
- Pulse Nightclub Shooting, 2016
- Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting, 2018
- Poway Synagogue Shooting, 2019
- El Paso Walmart Shooting, 2019
- Buffalo Supermarket Shooting, 2022
- Colorado Club Q Shooting, 2022

# Court Proceedings Considerations

- Possible dual jurisdiction
- **Planning and Implementation Guide for Comprehensive, Coordinated Victim Assistance for Mass Violence Incident Trials**

*Co-branded with USDOJ, U.S. Attorney of South Carolina*

<https://www.nmvvrc.org/community-leaders/rebuild-your-community/court-planning-guide/>



# Cultural Considerations

- Beliefs about concepts of justice, equity, and victimization
- Beliefs and interaction with justice system both directly and historically
- Individual control and responsibility of actions vs predetermined and unchanging actions

## Culture influences:

- Access and seeking assistance
- Views of death rituals, grief, crime, and mental health
- Response to interventions

Responding to Hate Crime: A Multidisciplinary Curriculum, 2000



# Considerations Across Hate-based MVIs

- Extended community
- Establishing trust and intentional outreach
- Choice of staff – someone like me (strengths and challenges)
- Avoid language that carries stigma
- Informed about population serving (culture, customs, and values)
- When other hate-based crimes occur in the news:
  - Trauma cues
  - Connection

# How to Enlist Support from Community Leaders and Build Partnerships (P. Kalra)

- Identify and partner with key community leaders who are respected and influential
- Ask what support is needed vs. telling them what to do
- Find a correlation between mental health services/outcomes and the community's values

# Best Practices for Community Preparedness (P. Kalra)

- Build stronger connections between at-risk communities and law enforcement
- Produce handouts on trauma-related topics; translate in various languages; and make them accessible online
- Create a directory of subject matter experts who can serve as mental health consultants to communities that are impacted by hate-motivated violence

# Relevant Resources

- NMVVRC Tip sheets
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network Tip sheets
- DOJ Community Relations Services <https://www.justice.gov/crs>
- DOJ Hate Crimes Resources <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/resources>
  - En Español <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes-espano>
- United We Stand White House Summit <https://www.unitedwestand.gov>

*Navi Gill, NMVVRC Stakeholder  
Wisconsin Sikh Community Survivor*



**Email:** [nsgill94@gmail.com](mailto:nsgill94@gmail.com)



# SIKH TEMPLE OF WISCONSIN



AUGUST 05, 2012  
BY: NAVDEEP GILL



# INCIDENT

- SUNDAY MORNING, PRAYER SERVICES
- EXPECTED 300-400 PEOPLE BY NOON
- ARMED WHITE SUPREMIST ENTERED AT 10:25AM
- 32 PEOPLE INSIDE THE BUILDING
- 7 WERE KILLED INCLUDING THE ATTACKER
- 4 OTHERS INJURED



# IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES/OBSTACLES

- NOT KNOWING THE NORM FOR A SIKH TEMPLE
- LANGUAGE BARRIER
  - CALLING 911, DISPATCHER WAS UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE ADDRESS
  - DIRECTING VICTIMS ON EVACUATION AND WHAT TO DO
  - WITNESS STATEMENTS



# IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH

- MEDIA CIRCUS
- EVERYBODY WANTED AN INTERVIEW
- NEEDS OF THE VICTIMS OVERLOOKED
- NOT OPEN TO MENTAL HEALTH



# IMPACT

- OUR COMMUNITY WAS DEVASTATED
- DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO AND WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN
- MISINFORMATION ADDED INSULT TO INJURY
- PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE EXPRESSED THEIR SYMPATHY
- NEIGHBORS WE HAD NEVER MET, NOW CHECKED IN ON US
- OUR COMMUNITY HAD BECOME STRONGER



# SECURITY MEASURES

- PREVIOUS SECURITY SYSTEM WAS NOT MONITORED
- PANIC/SAFETY ROOM
- EXIT PLAN
- FIRE SAFETY PLAN
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE BUTTONS



## LESSONS: BEFORE A CRISIS

- GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY, VISIT THEM BEFORE A CRISIS
- BUILD CONNECTIONS WITH COMMUNITIES COMMONLY TARGETED
- KNOW THE LEADERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES/INSTITUTIONS



## LESSONS: AFTER A CRISIS

- NO INFORMATION IS BETTER THAN MISINFORMATION
- FOCUS ON VICTIMS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND MOST IMPACTED





# Remembering Martyrs of Aug. 05, 2012



**Sardar Suveg Singh  
Khattria**



**Sardar Satwant Singh  
Kaleka**



**Bhai Ranjit Singh**



**Baba Punjab Singh**



**Bhai Sita Singh**



**Bibi Paramjit Kaur**



**Bhai Prakash Singh**

# Dr. D. Fredrica Brooks-Davis

Founder and Executive Director of Restoration Center, Inc



The intersection of racism, discrimination, hate-based mass violent incidents, the African American church, and community

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Presented by D. Fredrica Brooks-Davis, M.A., Psy.D



# Historical Trauma

- \* Slavery (1619 – 1865)
- \* Jim Crow (1865 – 1964)
- \* 50+ years – Integration and Desegregation

# Slavery

\* During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, Africans were taken from the continent and forced into slavery in the American colonies and exploited to work in the fields cropping tobacco and cotton.

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws>

# Jim Crow Laws (1865 - 1964)

- \* State and local statutes legalizing racial segregation
- \* Goal of these laws were to marginalize African Americans by refusing them access to the right to vote or get an education.

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws>

# Jim Crow Laws (1865 - 1964)

- \* Black Codes were identified as “strict” local and state laws that detailed, where and when formerly enslaved people could work and how much they would get paid.
- \* Black Codes were prevalent in the South. They focused on taking away the voting rights of Blacks, controlling where they lived, how they traveled, and using the workers children for additional labor.
- \* Former Confederate soldiers worked as police and judges which made it difficult for African Americans to win the court cases and easier for the judges to ensure they were subject to the Black Codes.

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws>

# Racism

- \* Racism is the belief that race plays a significant role in determining human traits and capacities and the racial difference creates an inherent superiority of a particular race.
- \* Systemic oppression of a racial group that grants political, social, economic advantage of another group.

Retrieved <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/racism>



# Social Media and Racism

- \* Online forums such as YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter have contributed to “a sudden and rapidly increasing wave of bigotry-spewing videos, hate-oriented affinity groups, racist online commentary, and images encouraging violence against the helpless and minorities—blacks, Asians, Latinos, gays, women, Muslims, Jews—across the Internet and around the world”

(Foxman & Wolf, 2013, p. 31; Vasquez & Johnson, 2022)



# History of Discrimination

- \* The United States has a long-standing history of discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities and those experiencing mental illness.

# Racial Discrimination

- \* When compared to other groups of color, African Americans are exposed to racial discrimination at higher rates.

(Chou, Asnaani, & Hoffmann, 2012; Comas-Diaz, Hall, & Neville, 2019)



# Racial Trauma

- \* Racial trauma or race-based stress refers to dangerous events connected to real or perceived experiences of racial discrimination. (Comas-Diaz, Hall, and Neville, 2019)
- \* According to Carter, (2007), the “dangerous events” include threats of harm and injury, witnessing harm directed to other People of Color and Indigenous individuals (POCI) due to perceived or real racism, or humiliating and shaming events.

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# Racial Tension and Violence

- \* Racial discrimination has been identified in the literature as a form of stress that may lead to traumatic reactions by those who experience a negative race-based encounter (Carter et al., 2020; Carter, 2007).
- \* When a person experiences danger due to an actual or perceived experience of racial discrimination it can lead to stress, which is referred to in the literature as racial trauma or race-based stress (Comas-Díaz et al., 2019; Carter, 2007).

# Institutional Racism

- \* Institutional racism is a pattern of social institutions (i.e., governmental organizations, schools, banks, courts of law) giving negative treatment to a group of people based on their race;
- \* Institutional racism leads to inequality
- \* Examples:
  - \* Segregated Public Schools
  - \* Sentences for drug crimes (crack -vs- cocaine)
  - \* Housing

# Historical Trauma

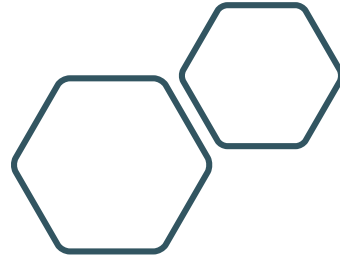
- \* Also known as generational trauma
- \* Affects an entire culture
- \* The impact may be experienced by generations beyond the one directly affected by the traumatic event.

# African American Faith-based Institutions: The African American Church

- \* There is a long history of African American religious institutions being regarded by the community as a safe space.
- \* African American ministers are often viewed as trusted service providers.
- \* Religion, spirituality and religious institutions have helped African Americans cope with racism, physical illness, mental illness, grief and loss, legal issues, relational concerns, unemployment and a host of other challenges (Chatters, et al., 2011)

Reference: Chatters, L. M., Mattis, J. S., Woodard, A. T., Taylor R. J., Neighbors, H. W., Grayman, N. A. (2011). Use of Ministers for Serious Personal Problem Among African Americans: Finding from the National Survey of American Life. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 81 (1), 118-127.

# Religion and Diversity



- \* “The diversity of religions is defined by beliefs and practices as well as by culture and ethnicity. To understand the specific religious experiences of clients, clinicians must assess each client’s religious affiliation, their level of personal identification, as well as their religion’s denominational and ethnic influences.”

Milstein, G., Manierre, A., Yali, A. M. (2010)

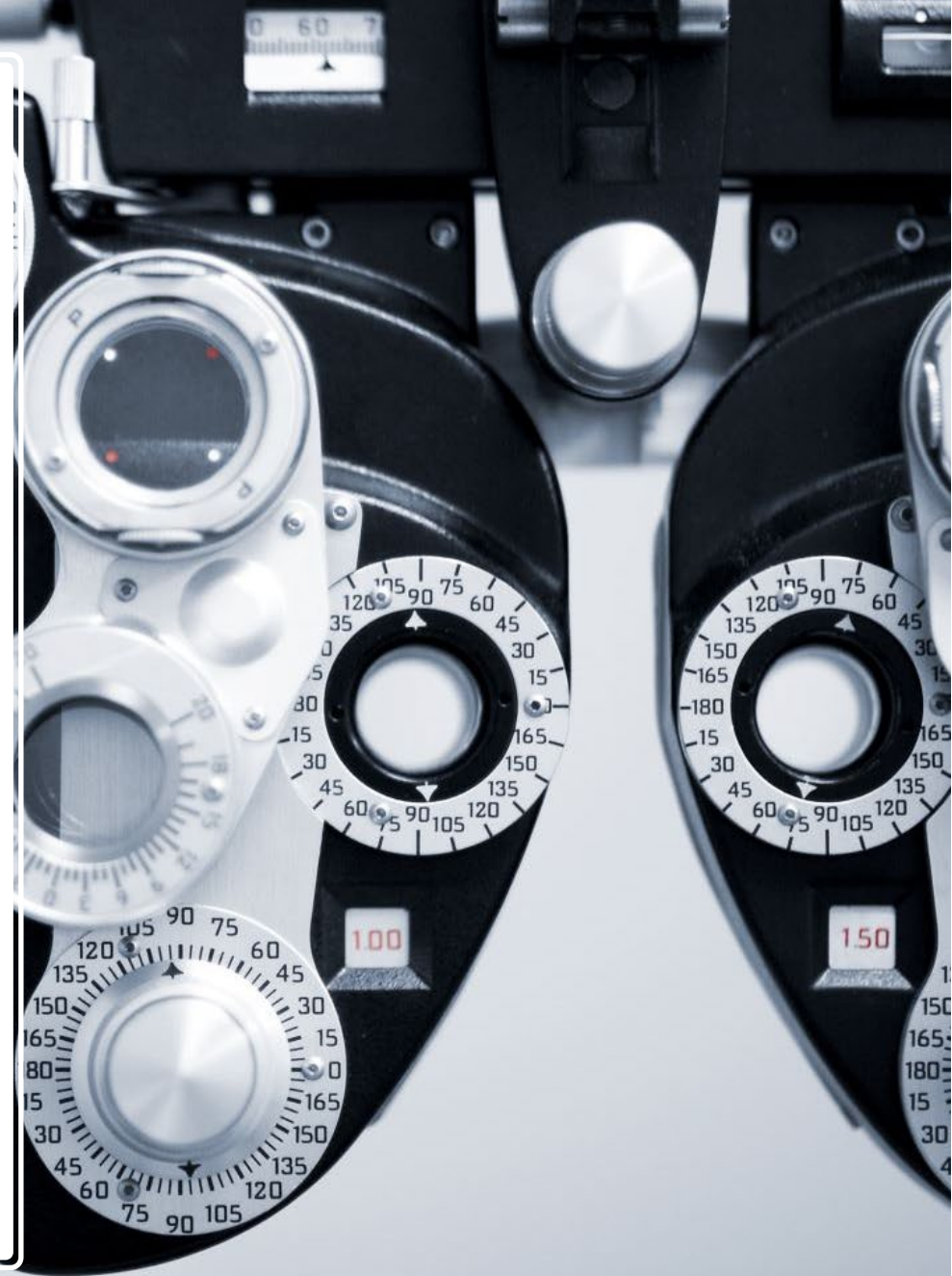
# A look at trauma through a broader lens

- \* Trauma is not a singular event. There are numerous factors that contribute to how a person responds to a traumatic event.
- \* Some of these factors include but are not limited to the individual's personality traits; the type of traumatic event; length of exposure to the traumatic incident; cultural meaning associated with the trauma; response from the community; resources available (e.g., church, familial support, community involvement), etc.
- \* Learning more about the individual or individuals impacted by the traumatic event is key. For example, did the individual experience the traumatic event alone, with a family member or friend? Was the entire community involved? Was it a mass shooting incident (e.g., Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Tree of Life Synagogue)?



# Why is it important to view trauma through a broader lens?

- \* Each person is unique which means both the internal and external responses to the traumatic event will be different.
- \* The more you know about the resources available to the person, the more you can empower him/her to tap into their support system.
- \* You will be able to offer trauma informed care that is both culturally sensitive and relevant.



## An example of viewing trauma through a broader lens

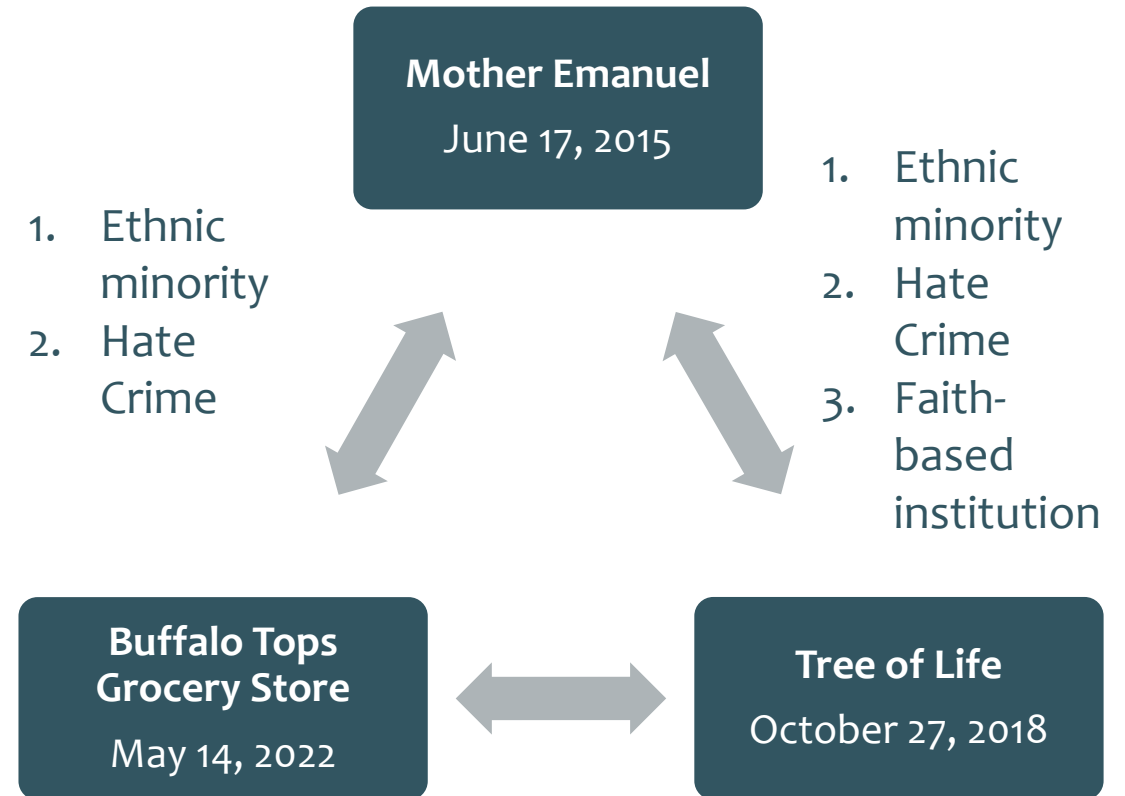
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- \* Mother Emanuel Massacre – June 17, 2015
  - On June 17, 2015, a 21-year-old white supremacist was welcomed into weekly Bible study. At the close of Bible study, while the 12 church members bowed their heads in prayer, he started shooting.
  - Nine church members were killed; 3 survived; 2 others who were in an adjacent church office also survived.



# Race-based stress

- \* Race-based stress is not limited to a personal experience. Observing a person from another ethnic minority group experience racial discrimination can trigger a stress response (Comas-Díaz et al., 2019; Carter 2007).
- \* This may be exacerbated when the mass violent incident occurs within a faith community.



# Culture and Trauma

When providing trauma informed care, it is important to consider the cultural meaning of the trauma and the cultural influence on the individual's perception of the traumatic event.

# Partnership Opportunities

- \* Establish partnerships
- \* Host workshops and seminars
- \* Co-Facilitate Bible Study (mental health professionals and pastors)
- \* Familiarize yourself with local, state and federal assistance programs that focus on helping victims and families after a mass violent event.
  - \* Example - Office for Victim of Crime's Anti-terrorism and Emergency Assistance Program Award (one time award)

# Faith-based organizations offering mental health services

- \* Restoration Center, Inc. – [www.iwanttoberestored.com](http://www.iwanttoberestored.com)
- \* Renaissance Counseling Center - <https://www.therenaissancecenter.org/>
- \* Alfred Street Baptist Church (members only) - <https://www.alfredstreet.org/occc/>
- \* Houston's First Baptist Church Counseling Center – <https://houstonfirst.org/the-loop/ministries/counseling-center>



# *Maggie Feinstein, Director*

## *10.27 Healing Partnership*



**Email:** [mfeinstein@jccpgh.org](mailto:mfeinstein@jccpgh.org)

## COMMONALITIES OF IDENTITY MOTIVATED MVI'S

- The victims are the most committed community members in their religious or other communities. To all who knew the community, those individuals were part of the life force of that community.
- Attacks in any house of worship feels like a betrayal to all who hold them sacred as they are a place of spiritual connection, prayer, and peace.
  - Similarly, institutions that cater to specific minority groups are often felt to be sacred
- Historically, internationally, houses of worship have been seen as places to welcome the stranger and feed the poor. This is threatened.
- Typically there are few professional staff, primarily “lay led” by community



## “RIPPLE EFFECTS”

- Visibility of White Supremacy movements
  - 2019 there were 780 antisemitic attacks in the US, the year prior, 2017, was the highest number of antisemitic attacks ever, with the Unite the Right rally being the nexus
  - After 10/27/18 there were fatal antisemitic mass violence events in 5 cities in the US, including Poway
  - January 6, 2021
- The global pandemic
- The legal cases of the perpetrators following hate-based violence in federal court
- A victimized religious organization can be very resilient or very trauma susceptible
  - Power/visibility for lay led organizations can be difficult

# CENTERING VICTIMS

- Focus on the perpetrator and motives can elevate the visibility of hate groups, and make the victims part of hate group narratives.
- Primary, secondary and vicarious trauma increases the number of people feeling victimized.
  - Others who identify with the targeted group may feel that they can speak for victims
- The religious institution itself is a victimized entity
  - Core community members and leaders are lost
  - In communities with pre-existing relationships they must shift dynamics, which can be hard.
  - Competing desires to “go back to normal” and adapt to trauma
- Anticipate, predict, prepare

# WHO IS HEARD

- The high visibility of MVI's means significant amount of press coverage and stories told
  - Competing narratives can lead to communal divisions
  - Is speaking up for individual egos or the greater good?
- Resiliency Centers can help equalize voices
  - Notice what voices are heard, be curious about what you are not hearing
  - Help to elevate the opposing voices
  - Encourage competing narratives to highlight diversity of experience with trauma



# ONE STRATEGY OR SKILL

*For those seeking to help victims,  
survivors & communities impacted by  
hate-motivated mass violence crimes*

# Questions from the Field

Thank you for submitting questions in advance to our presenters!



# To Request a Consultation or Technical Assistance:

[info@nmvvrc.org](mailto:info@nmvvrc.org)



# Next National Town Hall

MAY 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

**Topic:**

***“School Based Mass Violence Incidents: Addressing Student, Caregiver, and School Personnel Impact”***

**Date:**

***To be Announced Soon.....***





Office for Victims of Crime  
**OVC**

<https://www.ovc.gov>



<https://1027healingpartnership.org/>



<https://iwanttoberestored.com/>

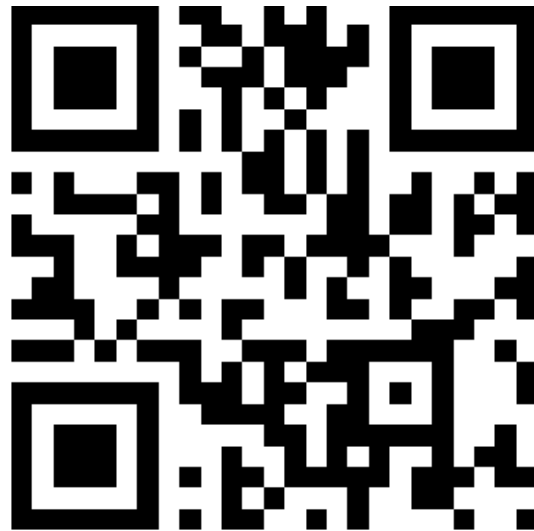


[For more information:  
drpunikalra@gmail.com](mailto:drpunikalra@gmail.com)



<https://www.nmvvrc.org>

# WRAP-UP & EVALUATION



<https://redcap.link/NTH5>

