Oregon ACP Statement in Response to Christchurch Mosque shooting

Once again, in the wake of yet another tragic hate crime, the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Physicians stands with our colleagues and the community affected, this time in Christchurch, New Zealand. The hatred, intolerance and violence of Friday’s attack on peaceful people at prayer in two mosques demonstrates that hate crimes affect entire communities, and, more clearly than ever, that community transcends boundaries of all kinds, especially in this era of worldwide digital communication and social media augmentation of hate.

We join our colleagues in Christchurch in mourning the tragic deaths of the 50 members of their community: men, women and children, and offer our sincere condolences to their families and friends. We also hold in our thoughts the 50 injured survivors; may they heal quickly and fully. There are no words to express the sorrow but we keep them in our hearts. Hate crimes are a public health issue that affect the safety of our communities and the wellbeing of our friends, neighbours, colleagues and patients. As physicians, we must not be silent about the growing epidemic of hate and violence we have been witnessing over the last two years.

Today, in the wake of yet another mass shooting, we call on our elected leaders in Oregon and around the world to stand with us in working to eliminate all hate crimes, and to reduce firearm related injuries and deaths.

We pledge to continue this work and we renew our commitment to the ever more urgent task of building inclusive, tolerant, and resilient communities that respectfully welcome ALL people so all can gather in safety. We ask you to join us on this quest.

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