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Dear AGPA Members and Friends:

We know that the last few days have been overwhelming for many of you. We live in a frightened nation, trying to grieve, process, and hold the pain of egregious acts of hate and violence. In the past many days, there have been mass slaughters of the LGBT community in Orlando. This past week, two more Black men, Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota, were fatally shot in acts of apparent police brutality; five police officers in Dallas have lost their lives while 7 others, including 2 civilians, were injured. They have left behind them grieving families, loved ones, and communities.

As group therapists, we know that fear becomes dangerous when it looks to objectify, discriminate, and target others as a way to protest, as a desperate way to feel safe. The result is violence answered by more violence: a cycle of non-relief that causes collective suffering and obscures voices of peaceful protest and wishes for connection. For many, feelings have oscillated between outrage and numbness, a readiness to act but an uncertainty about how to move forward.

As an organization of mental health professionals from different locations and backgrounds, collectively living and working with a belief in the power of groups to make a difference and foster healing, the members of AGPA's Executive Board, Community Outreach Task Force, and Racial and Ethnic Diversity Special Interest Group wish to extend our support in any way we can. We are reminded that it is important as clinicians to pause and take care of ourselves as we help others make sense of their worlds each day. Our wish is that you are able to find ways to hold hope even through these difficult times. Please know you have many standing behind you and with you.

For valuable information on this topic, we recommend two recent issues of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*:

*International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, Volume 65, Issue 1, 2015  
Special Issue: Special Issue on Violence in America: Part I

*International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, Volume 65, Issue 2, 2015  
Special Issue: Special Issue on Violence in America: Part II

AGPA members can access these issues complimentary through the Members' Only area of the AGPA website; once in the homepage of that section you can click on the picture of the *Journal* and then select the relevant issues.

Non-members can go to the issues via the following links; options for obtaining the issues and their articles are listed.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ujgp20/65/1>  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ujgp20/65/2>

You can also access additional trauma information on the AGPA website at  
<http://www.agpa.org/home/developing-healthy-communities/group-interventions-for-trauma>.

And, at any time, you can contact any one of us through the AGPA office at 877-668-AGPA (2472) or via email at [dfeirman@agpa.org](mailto:dfeirman@agpa.org).

Sincerely,

Eleanor F. Counselman, Ed.D., CGP, LFAGPA, President

Marsha S. Block, CAE,CFRE, Chief Executive Officer

Craig Haen, Ph.D, CGP, FAGPA and Suzanne Phillips, Psy.D., CGP, FAGPA, Co-Chairs, Community Outreach Task Force

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