

For Immediate Release

November 20, 2022

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We awoke this morning to the news that just before midnight on Saturday a gunman entered Club Q in Colorado Springs, CO, and murdered five people and injured at least 18 more. While the shooter's motive is not yet known, once again the Queer community has been targeted in what should be a haven and safe space. Obviously, many Queer folks will turn their thoughts today to the Pulse massacre in 2016 and retraumatize many of us who have experienced homophobia, transphobia, and violence connected to simply living as the people God created us to be.

The movement for Queer rights was born in trauma when Queer people, particularly transgender people, at the Compton Cafeteria and the Stonewall Inn fought back against the violence of oppression. As we pause today to mark Trans Day of Remembrance, more Queer lives have been added to that great cloud of witnesses whose lives and deaths shout out for the justice they were deprived of in life.

We may never know if the political, social, and religious rancor currently filling our country contributed to this tragedy, but it will never help. The demonization of Queer people, the proposed and enacted restrictions on gender-affirming care, and the limiting access to Queer-affirming books continue to create an environment where transphobia and homophobia take root. Coupled with a nation that refuses to enact commonsense gun reforms; the threat of violence is always and everywhere.

As an organization working to create spaces where LGBTQIA+ people can flourish in Christianity and beyond, LOVEboldly calls on our elected and appointed leaders across the United States to show up for the rights and the lives of Queer people. We urge state legislatures currently considering anti-LGBTQIA+ measures to remember that their actions and their messages often have unintentional effects on the Queer community. We implore the federal government as well as local and state governments to enact commonsense gun reforms in order protect the safety of all people.

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