

To the EMU Community:

Over the past weeks, there have been several acts of hatred and terror across the nation that are deeply disruptive of our sense of safety and community. A leaked report suggested an effort to narrowly define gender as a binary, biological construct and roll back recognition and protections of transgender people under federal civil rights law. Fourteen mail bombs were sent to several prominent folks including former President Obama, former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, George Soros, and CNN. On Wednesday, a man shot and killed two elderly African Americans in a grocery store in Kentucky following a failed attempt to invade a Black Church. And on Saturday, in one of the most horrific acts of Anti-Semitic violence in America, a man opened fire in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, killing 11 people, and injuring so many more while they were worshipping.

As described in [news](#), [reports](#) and [essays](#), the upsurge of hatred expressed in violence that is emotional, verbal, physical and deadly is deeply troubling.

To those who are grieving, we support you.

To those who are outraged, we share your response.

To those who categorically reject such hatred, we join you.

Our community, in the words of Jeffersontown Mayor Bill Dieruf, is one of "kindred spirits no matter our walk of life or how we worship or what we look like. We take pride in that," (CNN, October 28, 2019).

Please take a moment to acknowledge how painful this is in its power to disrupt our shared sense of belonging, and reach out to others in collective solidarity. The [linked document](#) offers some ideas and thoughts.

Devika Dibya Choudhuri, Chair

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