



Memorandum

Subject: Community Safety & Club Q Shooting

From: National Black Justice Coalition

Dear Beloved Community,

The Club Q shooting displayed the inhumanity of those seeking to hurt and harm our diverse community.

Club Q, one of 100+ LGBTQ+/SGL clubs across the United States, is described by many as a safe space for the members of the LGBTQ+/SGL community in Colorado. At Club Q, people enjoyed dancing and walking freely without fear of experiencing hate or prejudice based on sexual orientation, gender identification, and/or gender expression. Gun violence in these sacred spaces for our community is devastating and disruptive. While we can never erase the tragic events at Club Q, we hope the resources shared in this memo will be helpful as we collectively grieve the tragic loss of life and work to rebuild.

Investigation Update

On Saturday, November 19th, at 11:56 p.m. in Colorado Springs, at the Club Q, a 22-year-old man named [Anderson Lee Aldrich](#) opened fire using a semiautomatic rifle inside the gay nightclub, [killing five people](#) and leaving at least nineteen injured. The gunman was wearing protective gear, showing his intent to cause harm to others at the club. Law enforcement's response was immediate and coordinated.

The bias-motivated crime may be tried as a hate crime. However, prosecutors must ensure they can meet the legal threshold for a hate crime, which in the state of Colorado is unlawful acts against persons or groups because of a person's or group's race, color, ancestry, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation to incite and provoke bodily injury or damage to property poses a threat to the public order and safety. Federal hate crime laws cover crimes committed based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. The suspected murderer has not cooperated with law enforcement.

Tips can help investigators. If you have or need information about local government resources for community members in Colorado Springs, please visit <https://coloradosprings.gov/clubq>.

Hate Crimes in the U.S.

This year, hate crimes rose to the highest level in 12 years¹. Hate crimes that are motivated by sexualorientation are the third largest category in a scale of five of the most prevalent hate crimes after race and religion. The increase in hate crimes is unsurprising given an increase of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and legislation. In 2022, 23 states introduced more than 300 anti-LGBTQ+ bills.

¹ <https://www.adl.org/blog/hate-crimes-rise-to-highest-level-in-12-years-white-supremacist-praise-of-the-taliban-takeover>

In addition to the increase in hate crimes, we've also experienced increased suicide rates among Black and LGBTQ+ children, youth, and young adults. According to the Trevor Project, nearly 1 of 5 transgender and nonbinary youth attempted suicide.²

Communities across the country **must unite** against language and legislation that harms our community while advocating for clear, explicit, and consistent anti-discrimination protections.

Ways to Support

Donate blood, if you can, to assist those with injuries. Find a donation location here: <https://vitalant.org/>.

Donate to the Colorado Healing Fund: coloradogives.org/donate/COHealingFund. The fund has worked since 1975 connecting donors with innovative Colorado nonprofits, the fund helps donors with philanthropic planning, support nonprofits with grants and resources, and together, build resilient and connected communities.

Resources from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Civil Rights

- Report hate crimes to the Federal Bureau of Investigations after calling 911 by visiting this link [Justice Department's information on reporting Hate Crimes](#).
- The [Justice Department's hate crimes webpage](#) is the Department's one-stop resource on hate crimes. The department assists with [training workshops](#) and [victims' services](#) for the injured and family of those whose lives were stolen by perpetrators of federal crimes, [case examples](#), as well as [state-specific information](#).
- The FBI's [hate crimes webpage](#): The Bureau Is in charge of reporting elevated responses of hate crimes to its [highest-level national threat priority](#), which has helped increase the amount of resources available for hate crimes prevention and investigations.
- The Department of Justice's [Community Relations Service's](#) department assists communities facing conflict based on actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability by providing facilitated dialogue, mediation, training, and consultation to enhance capacity to prevent future conflict.
- Report all potential civil rights violations to the Civil Rights Division [here](#).

Leaders On The Ground

Please follow and support Good Trouble Network member Leslie Herod, Colorado State Representative, @leslieherod, across digital platforms.

² <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/>

Local Organizations

- [One Colorado](#)- is the state's leading advocacy organization dedicated to advancing equality for LGBTQ+ Coloradans.
- [Denver Black Queer Collective](#)- provides a protective, supportive and uplifting space for Queer Black People in the Colorado Community.
- [University of Colorado Colorado Springs MOSAIC and LGBTQ+ Resource Center](#)- provides student-advocated support services designed to cultivate the holistic development of historically and currently marginalized students at UCCS.
- [Inside Out Youth Services](#)- builds access, equity, and power with LGBTQIA2+ young people, through leadership, advocacy, community-building, education, and peer support.
- [Colorado College Butler Center](#)- works to inspire and foster an equitable intellectual and social climate that is inclusive and respectful of human dignity.

Additional Resources

- The National Black Justice Coalition produced the [Lavender Book](#) to help community members find safe spaces, including bars, restaurants, and nightclubs. If you know of or own/operate a welcoming, affirming, and safe space for Black LGBTQ+/SGL people, please recommend them for inclusion.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security provides security resources for community organizations and non-profits that face an increased threat of domestic terrorism and violence. You can find more information [HERE](#).
- CPR News lists resources for members of the Colorado Springs community [HERE](#).