

June 13, 2016

Dear Campus Community,

As UCSB celebrated the joyous occasion of graduation this past weekend, we also held a moment of silence as part of each ceremony on Sunday to signal our solidarity in standing against the violence that killed 50 people and injured 53 others in a nightclub in Orlando in the early morning hours. The flag on our campus is lowered today as a sign of our sadness. As of now, we are not aware of any UCSB community members who have been directly involved.

It is important to speak out against the hate that motivated a shooter to kill people in an LGBTQ nightclub at a Latinx-themed event. We also speak out against the Islamophobia that has followed news of the incident. Hatred and violence towards LGBTQ people, and particularly LGBTQ people of color, continue to impact our society. This tragedy leaves many LGBTQ people, as well as their families, friends, and allies, feeling fearful, distressed, anxious, and confused. Most of all, we remember how important it is to work every day to realize a society where all identities are celebrated and where it is safe to affirm one's identity in community and solidarity with others.

For those who would like counseling and support, a reminder about the resources that are available:

We have counselors available for you on campus should you want to talk with someone, even for just a check in about how you are feeling. If you feel that someone else needs help, please reach out to them and encourage them to seek assistance as well. For students, CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) can be reached 24/7 at (805) 893-4411 and resources are available on the CAPS website: <http://caps.sa.ucsb.edu/> Staff and faculty members can seek support through the Academic and Staff Assistance Program (ASAP) at 805-893-3318.

For those who would like support within the LGBTQ community, a reminder about the resources that are available:

The Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity will be open and available throughout the summer, and Pacific Pride Foundation in Santa Barbara will also be hosting events and fundraisers in the coming weeks to support those impacted.

To all of our graduates, we wish you the best in your next steps. For our current faculty, staff, and students, we will keep up our efforts to make our campus and community safe and inclusive for all sexual and gender identities, religions, races and ethnicities, international and undocumented students, disabilities, and socio-economic statuses.

Sincerely,

Margaret Klawunn  
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs