

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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Statement on the Buffalo NY Murders

5/18/2022

On Behalf of the Conveners of Imams associated with the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed (ra), we send prayers and our deepest condolences to the families of those who were killed and injured by the horrendous racist murderer on Saturday May 14, 2022, in the beautiful city of Buffalo, New York. Our words cannot express the pain and anguish, the sadness and loss, felt by the families. Such senseless atrocities are an offense and danger to the citizens of Buffalo NY and to the world.

In the Bible, one of the 10 Commandments is "Thou Shall not commit Murder," Exodus 20, verse 13. The Qur'an says in Surah (chapter) 5, verse 32, "We ordained for the Children of Israel that whoever takes a life it will be as if they murdered all of humanity; and whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of humanity. Although Our Messengers already came to them with clear proofs, many of them still transgressed afterwards through the land."

Racism is a very, very complex problem and has many factors contributing to it. One of the primary factors is the way language and imagery is used. To some extent, most of us are aware of how language and imagery were used over the centuries to produce damaging effects on the psychology of African Americans from generation to generation. However, language and imagery are not used enough to educate our society about the damaging effects on the psychology of Caucasian Americans.

When religion promotes the image of God (Jesus) as a Caucasian person, it suggests that Caucasians are superior to those who are non-Caucasian. When media influencers and politicians promote fear of non-Caucasians with messages like the "Great Replacement Theory," it suggests Caucasians are superior and at risk from the "inferior others." When the culture, such as the movie and music industries, promote language and images of African Americans and others as criminals, lawless, thugs, drug-users, and Caucasians as upstanding, civilized, and defenders of society from the invaders crossing the border, it suggests Caucasians are superior and others are enemies and undesirables. When Caucasian parents reject including the history and perspectives of other American ethnic groups in student textbooks, under the guise of rejecting "Critical Race Theory," because it doesn't reflect positively on the superiority of their self-image,

it suggests that they think the history and truth of non-Caucasians is of less value than theirs.

These kinds of ideas and concepts have served to make too many Caucasian people feel that they are different, special, and superior. But it has also hurt them because that mentality is artificial, divisive, and dangerous. It is not true, and it is not reality. It produces an artificial, false self-image in many Caucasians that allows some of them to justify harming and mistreating others.

The long-lasting, intergenerational effects of white supremacy, slavery, colonialism, and the language and imagery that supported it, still plagues many Caucasian people today, including judges in courtrooms, police officers, teachers and guidance counselors, and shooters, mass murderers, and those promoting violence based on race. This is the damage that such false language and imagery does to the Caucasian psychology of some people.

Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) has been reported to have said, "That when one part of the body hurts, the whole body hurts. The Muslim community and all right-minded people hurt for the murders that have taken place this past weekend in Buffalo, NY. And we pray for the City Buffalo and the world. Let us all come together, every hue and color, and band together as one human family working to make life better for everyone.

Imam Musa Abdul' Ali

Musa Abdul' Ali

**Northeast Section Convener,
Imams associated with the Community of Imam W. Deen Mohammed**

