



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
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National Black Nurses Association Statement on the Shooting in Jacksonville, FL

Silver Spring, MD – The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) released a statement following the racially motivated shooting in Jacksonville, FL that ended the lives of three people.

The NBNA is saddened by the recent senseless, racially motivated, hate-fueled murders of three innocent Black Americans in Jacksonville, Florida. The tragic murders of Angela Michelle Carr, 52, Anolt Joseph “AJ” Laguerre, Jr., 19, and Jarrald De’Shaun Gallion, 29, as well as countless other Black Americans, have highlighted the long legacy of institutional and structural racism in this country that has defined the daily realities of individuals facing bigotry, systemic disenfranchisement, discrimination, hate, and injustice. The amount of pain experienced by the Black American community during these turbulent times is inconceivable. The victims of the most recent shootings were slaughtered while shopping at a local general store by an individual who owned an assault-style rifle which should only be used during wartime. We extend our sincere condolences to the families of the victims and the entire Jacksonville Community.

Gun violence disproportionately impacts Black communities' physical, mental, and social well-being. During our 35th National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill on February 2, 2023, the NBNA called on the 118th Congress to address gun violence as a leading public health issue that negatively impacts the health and well-being of all communities. Furthermore, we asked that Congress support legislation limiting access to semiautomatic assault weapons, like the AR-15 assault rifle used to murder innocent victims in Jacksonville, Florida.

The NBNA reaffirms its dedication to working tirelessly to fight social injustice in all its forms. We must develop tangible and practical ways to shift the path of this country so that the killings of Black Americans stop. We join with other organizations and healthcare partners, imploring legislators to take urgent action to remove guns from the hands of anyone intending to harm people and, most notably, those who intentionally, with hate and malice, plan the demise of persons based on their race. NBNA will unrelentingly advocate for safer gun policies so everyone can enjoy the privileges of public activities such as learning, worshipping, jogging, attending concerts, and shopping without the fear of being injured or murdered.

About NBNA

Founded in 1971, the mission of NBNA is “to serve as the voice for black nurses and diverse populations ensuring equal access to professional development, promoting educational opportunities and improving health.” NBNA represents 500,000 black registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, nursing students and retired nurses from the USA, Eastern Caribbean, and Africa, through 112 chartered chapters, in 32 states and the District of Columbia. Learn more at NBNA.org