



International Association of Pride Organizers

## **InterPride Condemns Orlando Mass Shooting**

### **Statement from the Co-Presidents - 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The Board of InterPride joins the rest of the world in the condemnation of the horrific act of terrorism in Orlando early Sunday morning, the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, 2016.

We extend our condolences to the families and friends of the victims, and keep those injured in our thoughts. This senseless act of violence has torn through a local community in a way that echoes too many similar acts around the world. As Pride Coordinators, one of our greatest responsibilities is to create safe spaces for our communities to celebrate. Sunday's event is a sober reminder of how difficult it can be to create these safe spaces.

In light of Sunday's tragedy, the remaining Pride celebrations take on a new and important meaning. We cannot allow the threat of violence to silence us. When possible, we must work even more closely with our Police Departments and security companies to help alleviate public safety concerns. We will work together to ensure that the commitment to Pride is not overshadowed by fear.

Pride cannot be silenced. We, as pride organizers are its standard bearers.

Yours in solidarity, unity and community,

**Sue Doster and Brett Hayhoe**  
**Co-Presidents**

For further comment, please email [copresidents@interpride.org](mailto:copresidents@interpride.org)