



# APAPA

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association  
Community Education Foundation (APAPA-CEF)  
*Empowering and Engaging Asian Pacific Islander Americans*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **APAPA Statement on Synagogue Shooting**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** - APAPA grieves for the victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, PA. We send our deepest sympathy and condolences to their families and loved ones. We pray for those injured in this attack and for the entire Squirrel Hill community. We thank the brave first responders especially those who rushed in to save lives only to be shot themselves. America is a place founded on the principle that religious worship is the right of all people and an attack on one religion is an attack on all. That the attack was made upon victims who are senior citizens ranging from their mid-fifties to their late-nineties is especially horrific.

APAPA holds near and dear the concept expressed by President Ronald Reagan that "America is a shining city upon a hill whose beacon light guides freedom-loving people everywhere." We embrace diversity in all its aspects and abhor messages and actions that are divisive to our country.

We join the increasing chorus of unified messages from civic, political and religious leaders in condemning hate crimes and divisiveness and we urge all sides of the political spectrum to tone down the rhetoric and hateful statements that might have led to this shooting and the mailing of bombs to multiple "political" targets.

America has never needed to resort to violence to seek political change. Unlike other places, in our country, citizens need not resort to bombs or bullets as we have the power of the ballot to make the changes needed in our political leadership. APAPA urges all Americans to exercise this right, and responsibility, to voice your concerns and frustrations peacefully by voting for candidates and issues that represent your views in the coming elections.

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APAPA is a non-profit, non-partisan and grassroots organization. Its mission is to empower Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Americans through education, leadership and active participation in civic and public affairs.