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## Response to the Murders in Buffalo

Remember their names. The names of the 10 people who were murdered:

- Roberta A. Drury of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 32
- Margus D. Morrison of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 52
- Andre Mackneil of Auburn, N.Y. – age 53
- Aaron Salter of Lockport, N.Y. – age 55
- Geraldine Talley of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 62
- Celestine Chaney of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 65
- Heyward Patterson of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 67
- Katherine Massey of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 72
- Pearl Young of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 77
- Ruth Whitfield of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 86

The emerging details of the mass murder in Buffalo on Saturday, May 14, are chilling. Of course, that is the intended effect of terrorism: to instill fear and inflict trauma by attacking ordinary people. In this case, a domestic terrorist sought to instill fear and inflict trauma upon Black people specifically, by driving more than 200 miles from his home to a predominantly Black community (the highest percentage Black population of any ZIP code in upstate New York) and opening fire in a grocery store during peak hours.

The murderer's manifesto and subsequent statements leave no doubt that this was an act of white nationalist domestic terrorism. Plainly, white nationalism is not just a benign ideology with hypothetical impacts. It is a real movement with real actors and real victims.

This is why we insist that silence is violence. This is why we insist on antiracist education in schools. This is why we insist that white supremacy be dismantled. This is why we insist that anti-Black racism be a specific focus in antiracist work. Failure to recognize the importance of these truths in this moment is an invitation for the white nationalist movement to strike again.

As an organization, we offer our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and community of the victims in Buffalo, and offer our support to all Black folks in Belmont and beyond, who are now seemingly expected to go on living normal lives in the wake of a heinous terrorist attack. We see you and we love you.

*Belmont Against Racism*, Board of Directors