



Cayman Islands Human Rights Commission

promoting, protecting and preserving human rights

Statement on the Orlando Shootings

Like millions of others around the world the members of the Human Rights Commission were shocked and saddened as we heard the news of the horrific attack in Orlando unfolding this weekend. Our thoughts are with the victims, their families and all others affected by the terrible events of Saturday night.

Details of what took place and the background to the attack are still emerging but it is quite clear that this was not just a terrorist attack on a group of young people out enjoying a Saturday night but a hate crime - specifically targeted at members of Orlando's LGBT community.

Throughout the world members of the LGBT community are too often subject to discrimination, abuse, persecution and violence simply because of their sexual orientation. It is fact of life for many people.

Condemning the attack as "*utterly evil*" the British Home Secretary, Theresa May, noted "*It is clear that such an attack has its roots in a twisted ideology which counts homophobia as a cornerstone of its warped world view.*" The HRC agrees. The purveyors of such ugly bigotry, hate and homophobia have no place in civilised society.

The HRC joins all right-thinking people in condemning this act of terrorism and senseless hate crime. We stand side by side with the members of our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, both in Cayman and around the world.

Ends.