



Response to NYC Terrorist Attack
November 1st, 2017
Rabbi Sharon Brous

My heart hurts for the families of the victims of yesterday's terrorist attack in New York, for those who were killed and injured, and for the many children who were just getting out of school when they witnessed the attack, the memory of which will live in them now forever.

In light of the reality that yet another person of faith has chosen to demonstrate his love of God by murdering God's children, I believe three things deserve restating this morning:

First, murder is never a legitimate expression of devotion. No God wants the blood of innocents, and terror is never justifiable.

Second, all of our religious traditions contain raw material that could incline followers toward violence and hatred. There are violent extremists in Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Remember that the Rohingya are being raped and massacred by hardline, militant Buddhists. This is not unique to Islam. It's on all people of faith to choose life over death and love over hate. That is a choice. No matter how secular or observant you are, how pious or questioning, you don't get to opt out of making that choice.

Finally, even as we work through the grief and horror of this latest attack, we need to remember that the greatest danger to our safety and freedom is a culture of hatred, cruelty and division. God forbid we use—or let political opportunists use—this as an excuse to further sow seeds of hatred and cruelty toward Muslims or any other group. Now is the time for us to stand together.

To our family and friends in NYC- we ache with you. We send you love and strength. #NYCstrong—now and always.

[Share Rabbi Brous' original Facebook Post.](#)