



The Black Affinity Group (BAG) is a fierce and committed advocate for those suffering from inequality, racism, and injustice. BAG stands against the unconscionable and indefensible violence carried out upon innocent groups of people by a hateful racist. On May 14, 2022, the undeniable hate crime against a Black community of Buffalo, New York, reflects the need for all citizens to resist becoming indifferent to racism, discrimination, and biases toward individuals who are minorities in society. Our collective responsibility is to challenge injustice whenever and wherever we find it, no matter the circumstances.

The El Paso community knows how such a heinous and violent act impacts our lives. It has not been that long ago that an obsessed racist drove more than 11 hours to a local Walmart to harm the beautiful people of El Paso. El Paso, Strong! Each of us must continue to speak out against such violent acts, work to eliminate racism, white supremacist ideologies and racial biases rooted in misguided, dangerous rhetoric.

BAG encourages the cultivation of lovingkindness, empathy, compassion, justice, and solidarity with the community and city of Buffalo and those emotionally impacted by such events following similar horrific and devastating acts of racialized violence. BAG honors the loving memories of all lives lost and promotes the psychological safety of those negatively impacted by racism, white supremacy, and racialized violence. Today, we, specifically, honor the lives lost in Buffalo.

Say their names:

Celestine Chaney
Roberta Drury
Andre Mackneil
Katherine “Kat” Massey
Margus D. Morrison
Heyward Patterson
Aaron Salter Jr.
Geraldine Talley
Ruth Whitfield
Pearl Young

**Statement crafted by BAG executive board designees: Carleton H. Brown, Calvin Stewart, Charlotte Vine, Michael Williams, and Yannick Atouba.*