

Words Carry Consequences
Latino Policy Forum Statement on the El Paso Massacre

CHICAGO - The massacre we saw in El Paso was a targeted attack on Latinos and an escalation of the rhetoric that is becoming too common among political leaders, particularly the one in the White House. We condemn this hatred and bigotry.

The motives behind the El Paso massacre were clearly directed at Latinos, and they were rooted in the damaging rhetoric that came into the national spotlight when Donald Trump began using words like “invasion” and “drug dealers and rapists” to describe immigrants crossing the southern border.

The Latino Policy Forum joins other Latino leaders in Illinois and nationwide in holding our political leaders accountable for using divisive rhetoric.

WORDS MATTER!

We reject public language that inspires racist acts of barbarism, such as we saw in El Paso.

It is time domestic terrorism is given the same attention as international terrorism.

Finally, we must tackle the issue of gun violence through legislation and leadership.

As Chicagoans, we continue to join with others in demanding that our leaders address the escalating levels of violence in our city, state and nation. It’s a sobering reminder that this weekend alone, in addition to the mass shootings we saw in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio, Chicago saw at least six people murdered and almost 50 injured by gunfire. Something must be done to stop this.

We offer our deepest condolences to all the families and communities who have been affected by senseless violence.

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