

Khutba Talking Points - After a Tragic Event

1. We mourn and pray for the lost lives in _____ [Quebec/NZ/London/etc]
2. InshaAllah they are considered Shaheed, and passed away in a good, pure state.
3. Those who harass and prevent worship and destroy masjids are mentioned in the Quran:
 - a. Quran 2:114
4. We were born to die. Death is inevitable. Only question is how and when. No if.
5. So stay strong and be confident in your identity, so we can meet Our Lord with our head held high. We will not allow this tragedy to grip us in fear.
6. Grief/Pain/Sorrow is natural and we should process it in a healthy manner
 - a. If you need counseling/therapy please find counselor in your community or find one on the Muslim Mental Health Institute Website Directory
7. Don't despair of Allah's mercy and hope in Him
 - a. The same fear and anxiety gripped Abu Bakr (RA) when the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and him were hiding in the cave, but the Prophet (SAW) comforted him and said Allah is with us– Quran 9:4
 - b. Allah is with us in our times of fear and we should find solace in His presence with us
8. Persecution is real and we need to find strength and examples of courage in times of difficulty. Each and every Prophet of Allah was tested and persecuted by his people. We must find strength in their stories and courage.
9. We will continue to be tested as individuals and a community in different ways
 - a. Quran 2:155-157
 - b. Quran 29:2
10. These trials and tribulations are reminders and opportunities for us to get closer to Allah and strengthen our communities
11. It is also a reminder for us living to think about how we are living our own lives and if they're in alignment with what Allah wants from us or are we not living our lives according to the message of the Quran.

Action Items for Self/Individual:

- Pray sincerely for the community
- Seek forgiveness from Allah
- Commit to your Muslim identity and don't be afraid. Find ways to empower yourself and your community
- Check out [The FYI](#) and [Muslim Wellness](#) toolkits and distribute to your community
- Talk to your children about the tragedy and how to process it in a healthy manner
 - i. Grief/sorrow is natural
 - ii. Find ways to empower yourself by countering this hate with love and compassion, but also wisdom
- Use these opportunities to establish relationships with your neighbors and interfaith partners and create meaningful relationships with them
- Reflect on the seerah and see how the early Muslims persevered through harsh persecution

Action Items for Imam/Community Leaders:

- Conduct a town hall or vigil for the victims in your community
- Make counselors/therapists available in your community to discuss the tragedy with (i.e. office hours)
- Call for Greeters to be present at every entrance to your masjid
- Invest in security at your masjids including full-time security, security plans, surveillance equipment, keycodes, etc.
- Ask your local police department to be present at your Friday prayers and establish communication with your local police department
- Conduct facility security assessment of your masjid with your local police department
- Conduct active shooter training for your masjid staff and community
- Ask your elected officials to condemn this act of terror
- Invite your local elected officials and police chiefs to speak to community in solidarity
- Donate to LaunchGood campaign
- Disconnect from Social Media for a couple of days to avoid getting overwhelmed with the information over flow and negativity
- Reach out to interfaith partners to offer ways for them to stand in solidarity with us