

**LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINX STUDIES DEPARTMENT**  
**John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

**Statement on the One-year Anniversary of the El Paso Massacre**  
August 3, 2020

On this date one year ago, El Paso, Texas became the site of a vicious and appalling act of mass murder. Motivated by racial hatred of persons of Mexican origin, a gunman opened fire on innocent lives, killing 23 people, including eight Mexican nationals. On the anniversary of this horrific act, the Latin American and Latinx Studies Department of John Jay College of Criminal Justice honors the memory of those who lost their lives on that fateful day, as we did a year ago in when we created The El Paso Project.

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Today, the Latin American and Latinx Studies (LLS) Department recommits itself to the work of The El Paso Project, an initiative dedicated to remembering those who lost their lives in El Paso and to educating about long history of hate and the dehumanization of Latinx populations in the United States past and present, from segregation, mass deportations and lynchings to contemporary indignities and abuse, such as the caging of Latin American children and families, and the killing of Latinx persons by law enforcement. The Project aims to empower our students and the larger John Jay College community to engage actively in efforts that advance justice in response to the current climate of hate. The title, The El Paso Project, is an expression of our solidarity with the people of El Paso and the University of Texas at El Paso’s Chicano Studies Department with whom the LLS Department has had a longstanding and ongoing collaborative relationship.

In view of the current nationwide mobilization against police brutality, anti-Blackness and white supremacy, commemorating this heinous atrocity one year later takes on a special meaning. As an academic department deeply grounded in the study race, ethnicity, and justice, the LLS Department stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and in opposition to white supremacy in all of its manifestations and in all segments of U.S. society.

While our plans for The El Paso Project were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020 semester, we reaffirm our dedication to this vital initiative in the coming academic year. We will commit time, energy and resources to educating about the history and present-day experience of anti-Latinx hatred in the larger context of racial oppression, inequality and discrimination. In partnership with colleagues at the University of Texas El Paso, we will forge ahead with scholarly endeavors and other collaborations. Through these ways, we intend to honor the memory of the precious lives lost one year ago in El Paso, Texas.

Sincerely,

José Luis Morín  
Professor and Chairperson  
On behalf of the Latin American and Latinx Studies Department