STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH ORLANDO AND THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

June 23, 2016 (Toronto) —

The Self-Help Resource Centre is shocked and saddened by the loss of queer and trans lives, and the injury of many more, on Sunday June 12 in Orlando LGBTQ club, Pulse. The impact of the events of that evening has been felt in many communities, but particularly in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer (LGBTQ) and Latinx communities of whom most of the victims were a part.

We stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ and Latinx communities both in Orlando, Florida, and closer to home in Ontario, Canada. This was an attack on the freedom and human rights of communities that already face the threat of violence, erasure and discrimination on a daily basis.

We stand against any response that further adds to a culture of hate, denigration or violence.

We stand against any response that erases the identities of the lives taken and injured.

We stand against any response that is rooted in homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia or racism.

We stand against any response that assumes, labels, stigmatizes or others people with mental health challenges.

We encourage a response of compassion, kindness, thoughtfulness, and companionship.

We encourage a response where we reach out and check-in on friends, community members, loved ones to see how we can support each other.

We encourage a response where we listen and support, while being mindful of our own self-care.

We encourage communities to continue to gather in solidarity and support.

We say their names:

Stanley Almodovar III, 23 years old
Amanda Alvear, 25 years old
Oscar A Aracena-Montero, 26 years old
Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33 years old
Antonio Davon Brown, 29 years old
Darryl Roman Burt II, 29 years old

Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21 years old
Brenda Lee Marquez McCool, 49 years old
Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25 years old
Kimberly Morris, 37 years old
Akyra Monet Murray, 18 years old
For anyone affected by the tragic events in Orlando, please consider the following supports and resources:

Gerstein Centre Crisis Line & Mobile Team: 416-929-5200 (24/7)
Krasman Centre Warm Line (non-crisis): 1-888-777-0979 (24/7)
Progress Place Warm Line (non-crisis): 416-960-9276 (8pm-12am)
519 Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto: 416-392-6874

A full list of resources can be found here:

You can also search our online database of over 800 peer support groups in the Greater Toronto Area: http://www.selfhelp.on.ca/find-a-group-in-toronto/