

Frankel 6/16 statement on Pittsburgh Synagogue shooter guilty verdict

We saw, over the course of this trial, the incredible courage and strength of the individuals who survived a brutal attack. One by one, innocent people recounted the worst day of their lives, the worst minutes of their lives – worse than anything the rest of us have ever known.

The witnesses told us that they prepared for death, that they thought of their loved ones, that they shared their fears with 911 operators, the only voice they could hear that wasn't shouting hateful slurs at them.

Let us remember that the survivors reopened these wounds for **us**, for humanity.

Because there has to be a record.

The work to hold back hateful ideologies and violence **stands** on history.

So, our society asks another sacrifice from this group of people that has already lost so much. And they delivered. They told their stories. They recorded history.

Now, every one of us must grapple with that story.

The jury did their important work, making official what was already so clear. They will continue on in the sentencing phase.

But even still, there's more work.

As a commonwealth, as community leaders, and as neighbors, we each have a role in making Pennsylvania safe and welcoming to all for generations to come.

Hate is not a dragon that we slay, but a wildfire that we battle back to its embers, only to battle again tomorrow as errant sparks flare up, again and again.

So, today, I thank our brave survivors, for sharing their suffering so that we can protect against more suffering. And I promise to hold up my end of that deal, fighting those flames of hatred in Harrisburg and at home in Pittsburgh.