

Statement

World Federation of Haemophilia

This year the World Federation of Haemophilia Congress is being held in Orlando, Florida, USA.

On the 13th June the World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH) placed a brief statement on their Facebook page. The one paragraph, relating to the horrific shootings which took place at the Pulse nightclub, Orlando reads:

The WFH, NHF, and all of our community members offer our heartfelt condolences to the people of Orlando and are committed to showing our support by coming to this city later in July. Orlando is a strong community that has come together to support each other and will rise above this unimaginable tragedy. #OrlandoUnited

This statement was emailed to members on the WFH mailing list in an update of the WFH newsletter. I would also like to extend my love and deepest sympathy to our fallen Brothers, Sisters and LGBT family.

As this attack was solely focused on the LGBT community, I am deeply saddened to learn of the apparent oversight, regarding any additional safety recommendations for delegates / members of the LGBT community who are attending the congress.

LGBT people with bleeding disorders may unfortunately have been made to feel "invisible" by the world organisation representing them and everyone.

For decades, I have been making slow progress towards equality. Now in the aftermath of this tragedy, with greater understanding and acceptance, I truly hope the WFH will be embracing their LGBT members. With this in mind, I will be contacting the WFH to make a formal request to meet with the board to discuss this issue.

Together, we can all beat intolerance, fear and hate. I believe the WFH and I can swiftly implement an acceptable timeline for the much needed education and sexual health information for the LBGT / bleeding disorder community.

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