

Official Statement from the Muslim Community of Tidewater (MCT)

The Muslim Community of Tidewater (MCT) is heartbroken by the shooting incident that took place today at Old Dominion University. Our hearts are with the victims and their loved ones, with the students who had to witness this senseless act, and with the entire ODU community as it struggles to process this tragedy.

Once again, we are forced to witness the horror of gun violence in a place meant for learning, growth, and hope. This pain feels especially close to home for us. Our congregation includes ODU students, faculty, and staff, and for many of us, the university is part of our daily lives. For some in our community, Constant Hall is also their office and workplace, making today's events deeply personal.

MCT rejects without hesitation all forms of violence against innocent people. We condemn this crime fully and unequivocally.

We are grateful for the swift response of ODU Police, emergency personnel, and first responders, who acted quickly in a moment of fear and confusion. ODU also announced that classes were canceled and operations on the main campus were suspended for the remainder of March 12 and March 13. Officials asked the public to avoid the area around Constant Hall during the investigation, opened a Family Information Center in Chartway Arena's Big Blue Room, and made counseling support available for students, faculty, and staff.

At the Muslim Community of Tidewater, masjid activities will continue as planned for the time being, with one exception: there will be no i'tikaf at the masjid until further notice. This decision is being made out of care, caution, and respect for the seriousness of this moment. We will continue to keep our community informed should any additional measures become necessary. We are thankful for the support and presence of ODU Police, and we remain committed to the safety and well-being of our community. We also urge our congregation and the broader community to contact the police immediately if they have any information related to this incident or if they see or hear anything suspicious.

We pray for the victims, for healing for the injured, for comfort for grieving families, and for strength for all students, faculty, staff, first responders, and community members affected by this tragedy.

May God grant comfort to the grieving, healing to the wounded, and peace and safety to our community. Ameen.