

# **Best Practices for Meeting the Needs of Victims of Mass Violence and Terrorism**

This webinar will focus on best practices to meet the short and long term needs of victims of terrorism and mass violence. Anita Ahuja from California Victim Compensation Board will cover how victim services professionals can respond effectively to community crises, providing strategies learned from the following events: Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting in Las Vegas, the Borderline Bar shooting in Thousand Oaks, the San Bernardino terrorist attack, and the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack, among others. Information on how to integrate best practices into the development of an agency mass violence response plan will be presented, including a discussion on field response and interdisciplinary teams, partnerships with community agencies, and identification of resources. Specifically, Anita Ahuja will highlight ways to maximize local, state, and federal resources when addressing mass violence. Of particular focus throughout the webinar will be the long term needs of community violence victims, including what has helped and hindered them in their healing process.

On this webinar, attendees will learn:

- How victim service agencies have collaborated and responded to mass violence events
- Best practices and effective strategies for assisting victims of mass violence and terrorism
- How to utilize the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program within the federal Office for Victims of Crime

## **About the Presenter**

**Anita Ahuja** serves as Manager for Mass Violence Response and Ombudsperson for Crime Victims with the California Victim Compensation Board in Sacramento. She is currently focused on mass violence emergency response planning and assisting with meeting the short and long-term needs of victims of mass violence in California.

Her experience includes managing federal crisis response grants, support groups and victim services for September 11<sup>th</sup> victims in California. She worked extensively with the California September 11<sup>th</sup> victims for several years, facilitating support groups in Northern and Southern California and coordinating resources nationwide. She also manages federal grants from the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program in the federal Office for Victims of Crime to assist the victims of the 2015 terrorist attack in San Bernardino and the victims of the 2017 shooting in Las Vegas. Anita is currently working with Ventura County to assist the victims of the Borderline Bar shooting in Thousand Oaks and Santa Clara County to assist with the response to the shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival.

Since 2015, Ms. Ahuja has partnered with law enforcement to present the Leave No Victim Behind conference series which provides training on best practices for responding to mass violence incidents and effective community partnerships for assisting underserved victims. Ms. Ahuja is certified in advanced crisis response, critical incident stress management and has served as a Community Chaplain.

Ms. Ahuja has served in management roles in Public Affairs and Policy and Training at the California Victim Compensation Board. Her background includes working for the United States Senate, the California State Senate and the California Governor's Office.

She currently serves on the Board for the Winters Theatre Company, a non-profit organization in Winters, California, where she performs in and directs theatrical productions. Her production of SEVEN, which she directed, received three ELLY nominations and one award from the Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance. SEVEN profiles the lives of seven real life female human rights activists around the world who have struggled with domestic violence, human trafficking, poverty, gang rape, gun violence, gender equity and refugee camps.

Ms. Ahuja's credentials include an M.A. in Counseling Psychology and a B.A. in Political Science and Rhetoric.



## **Certificate of Participation**

**Webinar Training**

**Best Practices for Meeting the Needs of Victims of Mass  
Violence and Terrorism**

**Anita Ahuja**

**1.5 Hours**

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**Casey Gwinn, J.D.**  
Co-Founder and President  
Alliance for HOPE, International

**November 21, 2019**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gael Strack".

**Gael Strack, J.D.**  
Co-Founder and CEO Alliance  
for HOPE, International