

Visual Analysis

What Do We Tell The Children, The Orlando Massacre







The sources of these images come from Cindy Murray's photo essay "What Do We Tell the Children?; The Orlando Massacre". The aftermath of the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, which claimed the lives of 49 individuals, mostly from the Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities, is shown in this photography exhibit.

These photographs are showing more than just a tragedy, they humanize the situation through emotional photos. The first picture showing children at memorial pulls on your heart strings. The audience is moved to empathy and moral contemplation when they see children in the face of violence and hatred. I think adding the contrast of showing the protestors in one picture and individuals coming together out of love was a great way to add even more emotion to the exhibition. These pictures illustrate how violence against marginalized individuals affects entire societies, families, and children. Viewers are compelled to care by the emotional honesty.

This exhibition conveys many emotions. First would be innocence and questioning. The caption "What Do We Tell the Children?" and pictures of young children illustrate how difficult it is for society to justify hatred and injustice. Another theme would be unity. The LGBTQ+ community's unwavering spirit and togetherness are symbolized by rainbow flags, community vigils, and shared hugs. Lastly would be the vulnerability of safe spaces. Lastly would be loss and grief. Including pictures of individuals at the memorial and the expressions on their faces show the deep pain that followed this attack.

The exhibit's main human rights concern is the right to life, safety, equality, and freedom from discrimination, especially for LGBTQ+ community. By showing evidence of the aftermath, shows concrete evidence of human rights violations being violated. Human rights are not hypothetical; they are lost in situations like this, and the tragic story deepens our understanding.