



*For more information:*

Sam Eddinger-May

Maura's Voice

[SamE@TheMooreAgency.com](mailto:SamE@TheMooreAgency.com)

**For Immediate Release:**

**Secret Service's Latest Research Highlights Mass Violence Motivated by Misogyny**

*The Case Study Examined the Hot Yoga Tallahassee Shooting Resulting in the Killing of Two Women*

The following is a statement from Jeff Binkley, Maura's father and the co-founder of Maura's Voice, and the Maura's Voice Research Fund at Florida State University, regarding the **U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center's** analysis and report highlighting the role of misogyny in targeted violence:

[\*Hot Yoga Tallahassee: A Case Study of Misogynistic Extremism.\*](#)

"On November 2, 2018, a man with a long history of abusive and criminal behavior toward women and girls walked into a yoga studio in Tallahassee, Florida and opened fire. He injured four and killed two women - including my daughter, Maura Binkley. The victims were targeted for no other reason than being women.

Maura aspired to be a diplomat, driven by passion for listening to all sides, learning from all perspectives, and advocating on behalf of the greater good. Maura's legacy remains that of a change agent, and we believe the release of the Secret Service's analysis cited above is an important step toward change in better understanding the nature of violent extremism rooted in misogyny. The report underscores the critical need for communities to remain aware of this extremism, while pursuing prevention efforts designed to identify and intervene with those who pose a risk of violence.

Often, we equate mass violence solely with mental illness, but the causal factors often range beyond the typical paradigms observed in public policy discussions. Perpetrators often repeatedly exhibit contempt, prejudice and hatred toward who they consider the "other." In the Tallahassee case, the perpetrator pursued higher education, served in the military, and taught in public schools, while his behavior caused alarm among his family, friends, coworkers, and law enforcement throughout his life. Unfortunately, no preventative system was in place to effectively address his behaviors before he resorted to mass violence. This report provides information needed to build a path in the right direction to implement the approaches and strategies needed to reduce the threats to our society posed by the intersection of hatred and violence and specifically that based in misogyny.

Maura's Voice uses best practice research from a team of global researchers, including the information from Secret Service's recent analysis, to influence policy and promote positive cultural change – working toward a world where violence and hatred do not meet. We appreciate the work of the Secret Service and look forward to working with federal and state policymakers to implement multidisciplinary threat assessment programs at the community-level to prevent future tragedies.

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### **About Maura's Voice**

Maura's Voice was founded as a voice for Maura and victims of every act of mass violence that has befallen this country. We are a foundation for research, created to better understand the interconnective relationship of hatred, radicalization, and violence, and their impacts on the public safety of our nation.

Our intent is to provide policymakers and thought leaders with fact-based information on the underlying issues related to systemic violence to develop workable solutions for a better, safer future. Learn more at [Maura's Voice](#).