



**Afghan Student Association
University of California, Berkeley**

Official Statement Against Anti-Shiite Behaviors

To the UC Berkeley Community,

As an organization, ASA at UC Berkeley constantly looks for ways to expand our means of support for minority Afghans. We're always excited to learn about the very differences that make Afghans who we are. As a board and community, we strongly condemn the acts of violence carried out against Shias not just in Afghanistan, but globally.

In recent years, hatred for Shias has accelerated greatly. In recent news, we saw an individual take the lives of five individuals, believed to be targeted for being Shia. It is important for us as an organization to acknowledge the hatred carried out feeding into the Anti-Shia narrative. As students here at UC Berkeley, we hope to use our privilege and resources to help those impacted in any means necessary. As students, we also have to learn to hold ourselves accountable and look for ways to integrate every person into society as equal; afterall no one person is above another.

As we mourn the loss of our Shia brothers and sisters, we hope that you join us in this time to educate your peers, relatives, and yourself on the mistreatment of Shias across the globe. Being Afghan, we know that our background is unique and each person, ethnicity, heritage, and upbringing is one that makes Afghans—Afghan. We've been a land of diversity and here at UC Berkeley we continue to honor that principle. Shias contribute to fifteen percent of Afghanistan's population, we are who we are with the help of our Shia compatriots.

Should any question, concerns, or issues arise, our board is more than happy to allow you to voice your concern. Please join us in our path to grow from stricken narratives and grow. We promise to dedicate time for a panel solely focused on Shias and the rise of Shiite hatred.

**With kind regards,
Afghan Student Association Board
2022 - 2023 Academic Year**

