

Speaker Ryan: Addresses Manchester attack during Leadership Press Conference

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Summary: Today at a press conference with Republican leaders, Speaker Ryan offered his condolences on behalf of the House to the families of the victims of the Manchester terrorist attack.

Key quote: *"Terror is a threat that we all face together—and with our might, and with our humanity too. In that spirit, I want to express solidarity of the whole House*

of Representatives to Prime Minister May and her government. We stand ready to help in any way we can. Because freedom, compassion, and peace will always prevail over violence and hate.”

Opening statement:

“The whole House of Representatives extends its condolences to the families of the victims. Our prayers are especially with those who are still searching for their children.

“I don’t know—maybe it’s because I am a father of teenagers, but that is the part that keeps me coming back to this. I mean, think about the kids who had this date on their calendar circled. Think about the kids who got their parents to agree to take them to the concert. Or maybe it was a birthday present, or maybe it was a surprise.

“Or think about the kids who went to the concert with their friends on the agreement that they would get together and meet their parents outside right after it. Those are the kinds of conversations that go on in families with teenagers. And then all those moms and dads waiting outside when disaster struck—think about that for a second. Many rushing in, hoping to God and fearing the worst.

“To deliberately target innocent children is cowardice in its most heinous form. So we should not be surprised that ISIS has claimed responsibility for this attack. But we will never bow or bend to radical Islamic terror.

“In Manchester, we have seen hotels taking in survivors. We have seen local residents offering beds to those who are stranded. We have seen taxi cabs driving back and forth through the night, offering free rides to bring people to safety. And as we speak, people on social media are reaching out to connect families with their loved ones.

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