



*Healing Families & Communities After Tragedy*

June 10, 2015

Dear 9/11 Families,

Voices of September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, and the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress at the Uniformed Services University are excited to announce that we are initiating a study, "Investigating the Long-Term Impact of Bereavement Due to Terrorism: Factors That Contribute to Trauma, Grief, Growth and Resilience." This important research project is funded by Public Safety Canada's Kanishka Project Contribution Program. I am writing to invite family members who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001 and in the bombing of Air India Flight 182 on June 23, 1985 to participate.

As family members who suffered the loss of a loved one, your insights will provide a better understanding of the unique needs of victims' families. The research project will investigate the long-term psychological consequences of terrorism and the factors that contribute to trauma and grief as well as personal growth and resilience. Your participation will identify the immediate and ongoing needs of 9/11 and Air India families as well as guide best practices in providing supportive services to individuals affected by other tragedies. This research will result in actions communities can use to plan and heal from tragedies of mass violence, and your input will help make this a better informed final document.

The research project launches in June 2015 and will be accessible through VOICES website at [www.voicesofsept11research.org](http://www.voicesofsept11research.org). Participants will be asked to complete an online questionnaire that will take approximately 40-50 minutes. Your names will not be collected, and all responses will be anonymous. As always, our staff will be available to provide support services if needed during or after your participation.

We hope you will consider participating in the study, and we look forward to sharing the findings after its completion in March 2016. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at 203-966-3911 or via email at [mafetchet@voicesofsept11.org](mailto:mafetchet@voicesofsept11.org).

Warm regards,

Mary Fetchet, LCSW  
Founding Director

P.S. In order to understand a variety of unique personal experiences, we would like as many members from each family to participate in the study. Please share information about the study with your immediate and extended family members, as well as anyone else you know who lost a loved one in the event. Thank you in advance for your consideration!