

P.O. Box 11021  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Editor,

The New York State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers is deeply saddened by the senseless slaying of Ecuadorian immigrant, Marcelo Lucero. A Suffolk County resident for the last sixteen years, Lucero was brutally attacked in a Patchogue train station by a group of teenagers in what has been described by several media sources as a “larger marauding spree in which the teenagers tormented other immigrants while armed with knives and BB guns, prosecutors said.”

NASW-NYS calls for the swift enactment of federal immigration and refugee policies that will protect human rights, promote equity and social justice, and discourage racial discrimination or profiling.

NASW-NYS calls upon Suffolk County Leaders to promote policies focused on reaffirming the contributions of immigrants to our communities, understanding and acceptance of diversity within the community, and cultivating a healthy dialogue among all members of the community. We must work collectively to change the current cultural climate in order to prevent future acts of racially based violence.

Sincerely,  
Abraham Valentín, Jr.  
Suffolk Division Director