

Heather Veitch
Statement on the Manchester Terror Attacks
May 2017

"Articulating my response to the Manchester bombing has been really difficult. When the news broke, I didn't believe it. The shock was intense, and closely followed by an intense sadness which is still echoing through me. Manchester Arena is our local concert venue, and so many people have been impacted by the horrific events of Monday evening.

"I am a firm believer in doing what you can with what you have. As I wasn't in Manchester city centre at the time, and the emergency services were asking people to stay away, I began doing what I knew I could do instead: holding space, offering healing, and reaching out to my Gods and Goddesses to aid my healing work, to comfort the bereaved and broken, to midwife souls as they transition. I sent up prayers and offerings to protect those who were working to find and heal those caught up in these events, and waited on my own friends and family to check in.

"I feel so incredibly proud of our emergency services -- from the call handlers to the on-site response teams, to the medical units and family liaison officers, and so many more -- for their strength and empathy in acting so quickly. Along with this, I hold deep gratitude and compassion for these people, and for the wider community of Manchester who stepped up and did what they could with what they, in turn, had: offering rooms, food, transport, comfort, and so much more.

"I ache for the victims, and for their loved ones. What started as an evening of excitement and joy ended in terror and death. I hold them all in my work. I also connect to Manchester as a city, as a people, as part of my land. The bloodshed and anguish soaks into the soil; I do what I can to offer grieving and healing there too. This is the work of a living priestess: to offer a release for the grief; to hold space for healing; to connect with the land and offer of myself any transformation of energies that are required. I hold the space, I offer healing. I take responsibility.

"And yet, I feel waves of anger -- but this is not a time for hate or divisiveness. Once again a tragic event in the Western world has focused our attention on the War against Terror -- but events such as the bombing in Manchester are happening on a daily basis in other areas of the world. We need to remember, honour, and work to heal the suffering throughout the world, not just in White and/or Western societies. As a collective consciousness, we keep doing this, we keep perpetuating this, allowing it. We are all connected. We should all take responsibility for our element of this -- and, instead of anger and frustration, offer up more love, more compassion, for ourselves and for each other.

"As shown by the actions and response by my amazing, multi-cultural city of Manchester, this is a time for unity and strength, empathy and healing, love and compassion. This is where our strength lies, and how we will persevere."