



February 12, 2021

**RE: Content Warning: mention of death, gun violence**

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Michael Oppong Berchie, on Monday, February 8th, 2021.

Michael graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) in the spring of 2020, and, according to his father, was thinking of continuing his studies.

Four days ago, Michael was a victim of gun violence. He was fatally shot in Toronto near the intersection of Sage Avenue and Lawrence Avenue West. Gun violence in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is an on-going issue that directly impacts marginalized communities at a disproportionately higher rate. Gun violence is avoidable, and this should not have happened.

Michael was a kind, intelligent, and caring individual. We along with the community will continue to feel the impact of this tragic loss. Our hearts are with Micheal's family and loved ones. On behalf of the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), Commerce and Management Associations, we would like to send our deepest and sincerest condolences to Michael's family, friends, and colleagues.

During this difficult time, Michael's family has asked for the community to raise awareness about the detrimental realities of gun violence in our communities. We encourage community members to continue to further support Michael's family, friends, and colleagues through these trying times. A GoFundMe page was created to support his family with the funeral and other expenses. In Michael's memory, the UTMSU will be making a donation of \$500 and is encouraging other members of the UTM community to support in any way possible.

*Donate using the following link: [gofund.me/fb162c4d](https://gofund.me/fb162c4d)*

To raise your concerns about the concerning rate at which gun violence is rising in Canada, please reach out to your Member of Parliament. You can find your Representative using the following link: [ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search](https://ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search).

Please reach out to us if you require any support or simply need someone to talk to. We are here to listen to you.

In Solidarity,

IMI Business Association (IBA)  
DECA University of Toronto Mississauga (DECA UTM)  
UTM Capital Management (UTMCM)  
IMI Competition Group (IMIC)  
University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU)



## **Resources if members require additional support:**

Please Note: the content provided on this page are Third-Party resources. While we at the UTMSU have done our best to screen and vet these organizations, we have no formal affiliation with them. If you have any issues fully accessing any of the listed organization's services, we encourage you to contact the respective organization directly.

24/7 Crisis Support Peel-Dufferin: 905-278-9036 or 1-888-811-2222

Good 2 Talk Student Helpline: 1-866-925-5454

Gerstein Crisis Centre: 416-929-5200

Assaulted Women's Helpline: 1-866-863-0511 or Text: #SAFE (7233)

Distress Centres of Greater Toronto: 416-408-HELP (4357)

Anishnawbe Health Toronto Mental Health Crisis Line: 416-360-0486

Kids Help Phone : Phone: 1-800-668-686

My SSP for UofT Students: 1-844-451-9700, if outside of North America, call 001-416-380-6578

LGBTQ Youthline (Peer Support): 1-800-268-9688

Hope 24/7: Phone: 905-792-082

Stella's Place: 416-461-2345