



THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS OFFICIAL STATEMENT

AUGUST 14, 2017

RE: TERRORISM IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

We, The Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi), Inc. condemn the racist fueled violence emanating out of Charlottesville, VA this past weekend. We mourn with the families of Heather Heyer, and officers Jay Cullen and Berke Bates, while sending thoughts of compassion to those who were injured.

For centuries, the lie of White supremacy has been a scourge on our nation and such incidents remind us all that vestiges of hate continue to circulate throughout our country. While this form of hate is not new, undoubtedly the resurgence of hatred can be attributed to the moral license extended by our national leaders to these hate groups. As mental health professionals, healers, and scholars, we understand that this type of hate has fear and inadequacy at its root and leads to misguided attempts to assert dominance and supremacy. White Nationalists, KKK, and so called Neo-Nazi groups hope to create fear, and by that fear, keep law-abiding and peaceful people servile to their inhumane and dark spirit.

As a country, we have sent our young women and men around the globe to exterminate terrorism where it breeds and grows. Our leaders have attempted to build walls, implement travel bans, and encourage lawlessness by those sworn to serve and protect all in the name of combating fear and extremism. Our current administration, however, has chosen to equivocate about the terrorism just three hours from the door steps of the White House. We demand our leaders, national and local, to not only condemn these hate groups but prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law. This degree of intolerance is the only course of action consistent with our national policy on terrorism.

The ABPsi membership understands the impact of trauma on the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of a people and thus denounces the perpetuation of all forms of hate, violence, and psychic terrorism against humanity. To that end, we encourage the people of Charlottesville and beyond to draw on the resiliency of those that came before and those that continue to fight the lie of White supremacy and to stand strong in the knowledge that our strength comes from our humanity and our humanity comes from our communal bonds. We charge cultural allies to continue to denounce these terrorist acts and implore local and national leaders to act accordingly.

Consistent with our mission, the ABPsi has spent over 49 years researching and documenting the importance of the Afrikan/Black psychological perspective for optimal development of Afrikan/Black persons. Additionally, through our research we have examined the impact of complex trauma and the role of exposure to persistent racism on the mental health of persons of Afrikan ancestry. We stand ready to offer our support with regard to the development and implementation of transformative strategies. The ABPsi will continue its efforts to liberate the minds, and rebuild and enliven the spirit of Black and other disenfranchised people throughout this nation and around the world. We sojourn with allies of different backgrounds to make Our country a better union and democracy for all.

**IF YOU THINK YOU ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, SPEND A NIGHT WITH A MOSQUITO
~AFRICAN PROVERB**