

We Denounce the White Supremacist Hate Rally in Charlottesville and Call Leaders to Action

August 16, 2017

We denounce the “Unite the Right” white supremacist hate rally that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12; we denounce racism in all its forms both overt and subtle; we denounce anti-Semitism, homophobia, and xenophobia; and we re-commit ourselves to being an actively anti-racist organization seeking justice for all people. Our hearts go out to the family of Heather Heyer who was murdered at the rally, to all of those who were injured, and to all of those who experienced pain as a result of witnessing or hearing about this violent riot. We know that all oppressions are inextricably linked, that we cannot end sexual violence without ending racism, and that sexual violence is linked to other forms of violence and domestic terrorism. We acknowledge the incredible toll that racism takes on people of color every day in ways large and small including survivors and those advocating for an end to sexual violence. We acknowledge that white people in the anti-sexual violence movement have a long way to go to become strong allies for people of color.

We believe that white supremacists are emboldened by their apologists in the highest levels of our government and that leadership matters. We call on President Trump to cease equating counter-protesters with white supremacists and to divest his administration of any people who have expressed white supremacist views. We additionally call on Congress and governors to take leadership and condemn white supremacy. We call on all white people to strongly engage in ongoing anti-racist efforts, have difficult and necessary conversations, acknowledge white supremacist culture, and speak up.

For more information, please contact Terri Poore, Policy Director, terri@endsexualviolence.org