



Society for the Psychological Study  
Of Culture, Ethnicity and Race  
DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA)

First, on behalf of Division 45 we offer our deepest condolences to the family of Heather Heyer who was tragically killed in Charlottesville, VA. To her parents and family we send our most heartfelt sympathies. As parents, the loss of a child has no words. We only know that the loss is deep, heart wrenching and long lasting.

Like others, we have struggled to wrap our heads around the recent events in Charlottesville, VA. It's just impossible to believe that just a week after we were celebrating our advances in psychology that we were awakened to the horrors in Charlottesville. Just a year prior, the presidents of the ethnic minority psychology associations and Division 45 were sadly describing the immense and negative impact of our most recent elections on our communities. From coast to coast we heard the cries of our fellow family members expressing heightened fear, worry, doubt and sadness with how they were now being treated-targeted. Black lives matter, the pipeline fight, and immigration took a new more serious turn. Police were being told to not take it easy on those arrested - so our people of color continue to be maltreated, objectified, marginalized and endangered. Our African American men and women of color continue to be targeted.

The fear that the pipelines would move forward faster and with more fury was even more real. Our American Indian families' homes became more endangered. And we too suffer because water, the first medicine, is now more threatened than ever. We continue to stand by our American Indian family and thank them for their valiant efforts to curtail the advancement of the pipelines.

Immigration. Who hasn't been affected by new immigration policies? Recent efforts to curtail the freedoms of our Middle Eastern North African family have yielded negative impacts on all of our lives. Our Asian families too have felt the fear of the "new" immigration policies. And our Latina/o children and family became even more fearful of their life chances. Even the Dreamers knew that due to no fault of their own they could be deported from their only homes they have known in the US to a country, that while they share a kinship with, was truly not their home. New immigration policies only serve to break-up families and allow access to only a few privileged people.

Our LGBTQ community did not go unscathed either. While we were assured that new policies related to our family who are transgender were not really going to take effect, that hasn't stopped the fear that once again all that has been fought for was now in danger of being lost. And of course, most importantly the security of all of our family is highly critical. We fully know the way that hatred has been expressed with our LGBTQ community.

While these examples may not be comprehensive and do not capture the experiences of everyone that has been negatively affected by recent events, we know that hatred; bigotry, racism and all the -isms have a clear and negative impact on our lives and our mental health. Charlottesville, unfortunately, is another reminder. And while we provide a few examples of the impact of this hatred, a hatred that has been given the right to be expressed freely and against anyone, we continue to see examples of this hatred for those of us who are different and those of us who fight for justice, regardless of our color or background. We have never been against freedom of speech, yet, we cannot, we should not, condone any freedom of speech that leads to the harming of those who oppose the hatred that has become so prevalent in our society. **Now more than ever we are concerned with the future of our nation and condemn all actions of hatred and bigotry, in all of its forms, that serve only to hurt and divide us.**

Social justice without social action is no justice at all. So today let us promise each other that we will take an action against injustice even if it is a small action. The recent tragedy in Charlottesville, Virginia is a clear reminder that our work is not done. We stand behind all those that oppose hatred, as hatred is the face of injustice. We challenge all of us to work together, work diligently to express our commitment to each other and become the face of justice.

Thank you to all who have taken a stance and the resources made available to help our communities heal. With peace in our hearts, we stand with everyone who stands for social justice and social action.

Unidos venceremos este odio canceroso!  
(United we will conquer this cancerous hate!)

Enedina García Vázquez  
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Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race

### **Some Additional Resources:**

*Ten Ways to Fight Hate*, Southern Poverty Law Center  
<https://www.splcenter.org/news/2017/08/14/splc-releases-new-edition-ten-ways-fight-hate-guide-after-charlottesville-attack>

*Hate Map*, Southern Poverty Law Center, <https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map>

Alt-Right On Campus, Southern Poverty Law Center, <https://www.splcenter.org/20170810/alt-right-campus-what-students-need-know>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/08/14/why-are-people-still-racist-what-science-says-about-americas-race-problem/?nid&utm\\_term=.eaa43b93177c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2017/08/14/why-are-people-still-racist-what-science-says-about-americas-race-problem/?nid&utm_term=.eaa43b93177c)

Although I prefer the word “acceptance” to “tolerance”, they have some good resources for the classroom at this site: <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources>