

Resolution Condemning White Supremacy in Political Discourse

Adopted by the Legislative Assembly, 2019

Endorsed by Activism & Social Justice Division, African American Communication & Culture Division, American Studies Division, Asian/Pacific American Caucus, Asian/Pacific American Communication Studies Division, Caucus on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, Freedom of Expression Division, International & Intercultural Communication Division, La Raza Caucus & Latino/Latina Communication Studies Division, Rhetorical & Communication Theory Division

Whereas the National Communication Association’s Credo for Ethical Communication states, “We condemn communication that degrades individuals and humanity through distortion, intimidation, coercion, and violence, and through the expression of intolerance and hatred,”¹

Whereas the NCA Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion states, “The NCA opposes efforts to eliminate or restrict policies or actions that are designed to foster the goal of diversity,”²

Whereas white supremacist and/or white nationalist organizations oppress communities of color and, in some cases, support and enable the violent erasure of historically underrepresented, under-resourced, and/or vulnerable communities,³

Whereas white supremacist and/or white nationalist organizations, as well as adherents to their ideologies, have used violence to pursue their ends,⁴

¹ National Communication Association, “Credo for Ethical Communication,” 2017, https://www.natcom.org/sites/default/files/Public_Statement_Credo_for_Ethical_Communication_2017.pdf

² National Communication Association, “NCA Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,” 2017, https://www.natcom.org/sites/default/files/Public_Statement_NCA_Statement_on_Diversity_Equity_and_Inclusion_2017_0.pdf

³ See, for example, Southern Poverty Law Center, “White Nationalist,” <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/white-nationalist>

⁴ See Weiyi Cai and Simone Landon, “Attacks by White Extremists are Growing. So Are Their Connections,” *New York Times*, 3 April 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/04/03/world/white-extremist-terrorism-christchurch.html?mtrref=www.google.com&mtrref=www.nytimes.com>; “Hardcore White Supremacists Elevate Dylann Roof to Cult Hero Status,” *Anti-Defamation League*, 6 February 2019, <https://www.adl.org/blog/hardcore-white-supremacists-elevate-dylann-roof-to-cult-hero-status>; Spencer S. Hsu and Peter Hermann, “D.C. Man Arrested on Gun Charge after Relatives Alert Police to His Alleged White Nationalist Outbursts,” *Washington Post*, 13 November 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/dc-man-arrested-on-gun-charge-after-relatives-alert-police-to-his-alleged-white-nationalist-outbursts/2018/11/13/e3a6d2fa-e771-11e8-b8dc-66cca409c180_story.html?fbclid=IwAR2ng0XZ8nqWeFOxam9M2PfYDo0RrCuEWbY2J2emqs7M1DpAH42ndt3LD7c&noredirect=on&utm_term=.dd9828335f96; Seth G. Jones, “The Rise of Far-Right Extremism in the United States,” *CSIS Briefs*, 7 November 2018, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/rise-far-right-extremism-united-states>; Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, “Racial Terror and the Second Repeal of Reconstruction,” *New Republic*, 29 May 2019, <https://newrepublic.com/article/153772/racial-terror-failed-promise-reconstruction-trump-america>; Susan Svrluga and Lori Rozsa, “‘Kill Them’: Three Men Charged in Shooting after Richard Spencer Speech,” *Washington Post*, 20 October 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/10/20/kill-them-three-men-charged-in-shooting-after-richard-spencer-speech/?utm_term=.60e037d78fce

Whereas organizations espousing discourse in support of and/or pursuing white supremacist and/or white nationalist objectives undermine the principles enshrined in the Credo for Ethical Communication and the Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,

Whereas such organizations are inconsistent with the principles of a thriving democratic culture,⁵

Whereas, in the past several years, white supremacist and/or white nationalist groups have grown in size and become bolder in their public actions,⁶

Whereas such groups perform a significant amount of their activity on college and university campuses,⁷

Whereas the National Communication Association is a learned society of primarily academic professionals and students who work and learn on such campuses and, as such, are vulnerable to such activity,

Whereas the discourse and actions of white supremacist and/or white nationalist groups target vulnerable communities represented within the membership of NCA,

Whereas the public denunciation of hate speech and other such forms of communication is consistent with the NCA's commitment to "freedom of expression, diversity of perspective, and tolerance of dissent,"⁸

Therefore be it resolved that the NCA condemns in the strongest possible terms white supremacist discourse by political leaders that argues for white people's biological and/or cultural superiority and/or the biological and/or cultural inferiority of people of color and white nationalist discourse that argues for the physical and cultural segregation of people by race.

⁵ See Crenshaw. For broader historical context, see W.E.B. DuBois, *Black Reconstruction in America: 1860-1880* (New York: Free Press, 1998).

⁶ U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, "Hate Crimes and the Rise of White Nationalism," 9 April 2019, <https://judiciary.house.gov/legislation/hearings/hate-crimes-and-rise-white-nationalism>; "Hate groups reach record high," *Southern Poverty Law Center*, 19 February 2019, <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2019/02/19/hate-groups-reach-record-high>

⁷ Jeremy Bauer-Wolf, "Even More White Supremacist Flyers," *Inside Higher Ed*, 6 March 2019, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/03/06/analysis-finds-increase-white-supremacist-propaganda-college-campus>

⁸ John D.H. Downing, "'Hate Speech' and 'First Amendment Absolutism' Discourse in the U.S.," *Discourse & Society* 10 (1999): 175-89; Mari J. Matsuda, Charles R. Lawrence, III, Richard Delgado, and Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, *Words That Wound: Critical Race Theory, Assaultive Speech, and the First Amendment* (Boulder, CO: Westview, 1993).