



District of Columbia Psychological Association

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December 2018

An open letter from the Past President, President-elect and Chairperson of the Ethics and Social Justice Committee of the DC Psychological Association strongly condemning the current climate of violence, hatred, racism, and anti-Semitism. We also strongly support Dr. Jessica Daniel, President of the American Psychological Association, and her thoughtful and passionate response to the shooting at the Pittsburgh Synagogue.

The Social Justice Committee of DCPA embraces the APA's Ethical principles that provide a foundation for Psychologists systematic and public application of professional expertise, capabilities and wisdom that are related to social Issues and human rights, This is especially relevant when the health, well being and safety of individuals and the community are endangered. The recent events in Pittsburgh where people were killed at a Jewish synagogue, people of color were killed in Kentucky, numerous mail bombs sent out to Democratic political leaders, CNN journalists and ordinary citizens, the nightclub shooting in California, and the abhorrent treatment of immigrants--including those currently seeking asylum at our border--provide nightmarish examples of these concerns.

In a climate of intolerance, fear and violence we need to join together. We need to be a voice that promotes truth, justice and unity. We need to stand with all those who are the most vulnerable, who are victims of hatred, fanaticism and outrageous lies. We also applaud those who speak out against these injustices and work to protect those most in need; and we express our gratitude and support for their bravery, dedication, courage and passion.

We strongly believe that we are all one people. The fear, hatred and prejudice that divide us need to be addressed and resolved. The urgency for tolerance, empathic attunement, understanding and unity should never be an issue of politics, but rather one of inclusion, decency, fairness and justice that should be embraced by all of us. It is our hope and strong belief that by joining together and being a voice for truth and justice, and providing support and services to all those who have been injured and traumatized, we can play an active part in healing the wounds and toxic divisions of our present reality. We must work together to create a new healing narrative and reality.

A reality that strongly supports truth, justice, diversity and inclusion.

A reality that seeks to unite us and celebrates our common humanity.

A reality that embraces the Hebrew concept of Tikkun olam:

To Fix, repair and enhance our world!

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