

Statement from the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City

This past Saturday, the country witnessed a gathering of White supremacist groups in Charlottesville, VA to shout hate as loudly as possible. As members of the Rabbinic Association of Greater Kansas City, we stand together as a community of Rabbis, spanning denominations, in solidarity and comfort with the family and friends of Heather Heyer. Heather was brutally murdered through an act of domestic terrorism at this "Unite the Right" rally. We add our voices to speak out against the support given to White Supremacy, neo-Nazis, the KKK and other hate groups by President Trump through his silence and equivocation.

The President's statements and silence have drawn criticism from leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties and cheers from the leaders of White supremacy. Outcries have come from every manner of faith group in our nation. We stand with the CCAR (Reform rabbis), RCA (Orthodox rabbis) and RA (Conservative rabbis) who have all spoken up since the attack to denounce xenophobia, racism and hatred.

We add our voices to all those who call for unequivocal repudiation of racist ideologies. We hold out our hands to those within the Jewish community, and to our African-American colleagues and all of our partners in faith across the Kansas City area and beyond, to work together to create a society where we are all able to see each one of our brothers and sisters as someone created in God's image.

We hope to live up to the goal set forth by President Lincoln in his second inaugural address:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.