



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from the
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Shriver Center Denounces Racist Hatred, Violence in Charlottesville

Chicago, IL— The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law strongly condemns the terrorist actions committed by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, this weekend, and the racism, xenophobia, and anti-Semitism that gave rise to them. We stand in solidarity with the counter-protesters who stood against hate and bigotry, as well as all Americans who oppose racial inequalities that still plague our nation.

This weekend's tragic events were not simply a clash of "many sides"—they were directly caused by white supremacists who were motivated by an ideology that is filled with hate and bigotry and rooted in our country's long, painful legacy of racial and ethnic inequity.

Everyone should be able to live their lives free of racially- and ethnically-motivated violence and terror. But as this weekend has shown, racism and bigotry remain urgent problems and continue to pose both an existential threat and economic barrier to far too many people. These sorts of ideas and actions are not just evident at white nationalist rallies and marches, but they are also manifest in our country's major institutions and public policies, hindering the quality of life and chances at opportunity for millions of people in this country. We must educate ourselves on the historical underpinnings of white supremacy and white privilege and take concrete steps to overcome them. While pervasive, these phenomena are a clear threat to equity, justice, and inclusivity for all, have no place in our society, and must be condemned and fought at every turn.

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The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. We specialize in practical solutions. We advocate for and serve clients directly, while also building the capacity of the nation's legal aid providers to advance justice and opportunity for their clients. www.povertylaw.org

