



Leaders Must Speak Out Loudly, Boldly, and Specifically About Hate Groups Says Leading Psychoanalytic Association

New York - August 17, 2017 - President Trump's reluctance to unequivocally condemn neo-Nazis and other white supremacists is an extremely worrisome turn in our national dialogue regarding race and diversity, and what it means to be American. Many Americans fled, and still flee, oppressive states to come to the United States in search of basic human rights and freedom of thought once denied to them; indeed, many psychoanalysts, too, fled the Nazi regime leading up to World War II in the context of deteriorating social conditions in Europe.

Social and psychoanalytic research and daily clinical work inform us that hate speech and hate crimes are a serious public health issue. They cause trauma to members of targeted groups and to the public at large witnessing these events. Violent words and actions from this past weekend in Charlottesville cause harm not only to those who were present, but trigger symptoms for those who have been victims of past trauma, particularly the trauma of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, homophobia, and misogyny.

The American Psychoanalytic Association (APsAA) joins with other organizations such as the American College of Physicians, American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Public Health Association in acknowledging that hate crimes are a serious public health issue.

Therefore, APsAA strongly urges the president, our leaders in Congress and across the country to speak out loudly, boldly and specifically against the kind of hatred and violence recently seen in Charlottesville.

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