

National Black Nurses Association, Inc.

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August 15, 2017

Dear NBNA Membership:

On Saturday, August 12, 2107, Americans experienced another horrific incident of violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. We are all distressed by the ferocious protests in Charlottesville, Virginia; and Seattle, Washington, supported by the Alt-Right, White Supremacists, Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan. As a result of this tragedy, three individuals have died and dozens were injured. The National Black Nurses Association condemns violence of all types. We are committed to eradicating the epidemic of violence in America and views violence as a public health crisis. This is another tragedy to only remind us that collaborative strategic interventions are imperative.

We are saddened over these senseless fatalities and the lack of respect for individuals regarding race, ethnicity, gender, religion and sexual orientation and identity. The audaciousness and openness of many people to think that by participating in hate and racial activities on any level will make America great again only validates that we have much more work to do from public health policy and social justice viewpoints. We are self-assured that hate will fail and collectively our efforts will promote equity for all individuals

Please join NBNA as we partner with the Black Women for Positive Change to eliminate violence during the Week of Non-Violence, October, 15 – 23, 2017. Activities will be held in cities throughout the Nation. I am asking all of the 101 NBNA chapters to participate in activities that they may host on their own, in collaboration with the Black Women for Positive Change or with other local organizations.

President Trump's statement that violence "on many sides [must end]" does not address the epidemic of Violence in America. WE will continue to not only mobilize nurses but educate our communities that hate is not acceptable.

We offer thoughts and prayers with condolences to the victims, their families and friends, of the pointless hate-inspired violence that we observed on Saturday in Charlottesville, VA.

NBNA will continue to work with organizations and leaders across our Nation who are battling the epidemic of violence, racism and intolerance with love and non-violence activities to educate others and to help build a Culture of Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric J. Williams". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Dr. Eric J. Williams
President