

## Statement on White Supremacy and Charlottesville

15 August 2017

The recent acts of domestic terrorism in Charlottesville committed in support of white supremacy require us all to provide moral clarity. What transpired, including the killing of anti-racist protester Heather Heyer by a neo-Nazi, warrants condemnation from decent people everywhere. But, they also must make action more imperative, including work to inform the public and our leaders about racial injustice and solutions to address it.

At the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality, we engage in research and develop ideas that alleviate poverty and inequality in the United States. Achieving economic security and reducing inequality from its current extremes requires a clear focus on advancing racial justice. Our nation's history, including the history that is unfolding today, includes no shortage of racially motivated violence, as well as gender based violence and violence against immigrants, religious minorities, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and other marginalized or oppressed groups. Because of our tragic legacy of racism and discrimination -- from this nation's very founding, to slavery, to Jim Crow, to ongoing mass incarceration -- and current practices and policies that perpetuate that history, the work of people and organizations committed to advancing economic opportunity and equality must include strategies for advancing racial justice. Now is the time for us all to stand together and make clear that all forms of hate against marginalized and disadvantaged groups are intolerable and an affront to our values as a nation. We must take all possible steps to ensure that the principles of racial equity are firmly embedded in our policies, our work, and our lives.

A strong and just America continuously works toward equality and inclusion. We support the people of Charlottesville, and we stand ready to work with all people of good will in achieving this vision – for them, and for us all.

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