

At their August 15, 2017, meeting, the Board of Directors of the LGBT PA Caucus of the American Academy of PAs, Inc., unanimously endorsed the following statement:

The LGBT PA Caucus — stands firmly together in solidarity with other marginalized communities. All of us at the LGBT PA Caucus condemn in the strongest possible terms the voices and the actions of domestic terrorists who gather in the name of hate. Violence in any form contradicts our collective vision of a healthy society.

White supremacy, racism, anti-Semitism, fascism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, and other forms of hate speech and violence are not new. Black, Brown, Jewish, Muslim, LGBT, immigrant, and other structurally marginalized communities have experienced violence for longer than our country has been in existence. For just as long, structurally oppressed and marginalized people have also led the fight for justice and equity.

Martin Luther King Jr., stated that "Hate can't drive out hate. Only love can do that." When white supremacists chanted racist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, and misogynist slogans on the streets of Charlottesville, VA, we recalled that hate is a learned behavior, and it is a behavior that also can - and must - be unlearned.

As trusted medical professionals, we, the LGBT PA Caucus Board of Directors, commit to utilizing our privilege

*to speak out against racist and violent rhetoric.
to dismantle racism and the structural oppression that maintains it.
to face our own privilege and resolve to identify where we are complicit.
to support and act in solidarity with communities targeted by hate and discriminatory practices.
Hate and bigotry must never be met with silence. Those who do stand silent enable it.*

The dimensions of our identities give us varying experiences of power and oppression. Here are some suggestions if you feel you are in a position to take action:

- 1. Donate money to groups that are people of color led, that have small budgets and that do the most with the least – for example, the African Heritage Caucus.*
- 2. Call out racism in our own lives. Learn how to interrogate our own privilege and biases. Speak up every time you hear a colleague make a racist comment.*
- 3. Talk to your representatives. Tell them your thoughts about the violence in Charlottesville. Ask them how they plan to protect their constituents by preventing such violence.*

In Solidarity,

The Board of Directors,
LGBT PA Caucus
www.lbgtpa.org | info@lbgtpa.org
Serving the PA profession since 1979

