בית אמת
Beth Emet
THE FREE SYNAGOGUE

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Dr. Michael C. R. Nabors
President Evanston/North Shore NAACP

Dear Pastor Nabors,

I stand with the NAACP and share the organization's outrage over President Trump's refusal to disavow white supremacy when given the opportunity during Tuesday night's debate. Instead, the president told a white supremacist group to "stand back and stand by." In doing so, he was signaling to them and other groups known for violently racist, misogynistic, anti-Semitic, xenophobic and anti-Muslim views that their rhetoric and behavior are acceptable. We dare not dismiss the threat to our democracy and our freedoms that is implicit in such statements.

This is, of course, not the first time the president has gone out of his way to give verbal aid and comfort to such groups. Rather, it is part of a pattern of behavior exhibited both before and since his election to office. The president has called Mexicans rapists, proposed banning Muslims from coming to this country, blamed "both sides" for the violence in Charlottesville, called Jews brutal killers and, once again this week, questioned the patriotism of a Somali-born member of Congress.

His comments are more than demeaning and bigoted. They are dangerous. Just last week, FBI Director Christopher Wray told a congressional panel that white supremacists and anti-government extremists have been responsible for most of the recent deadly attacks by extremist groups in the U.S. Here, even a Trump appointee gives the lie to the Trumpian notion that violence in our society is mainly attributable to immigrants and people of color.

The president's rhetoric emboldens white supremacists and threatens our collective safety. We must, therefore, stand up, defend our democracy and demand from our political representatives that they condemn the president's bigotry and threats of violence. And we must work together to challenge the politics of hate and build a society based on justice, dignity, and compassion.

In solidarity,

Andrea London

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