

Dear Evanston and North Shore,

Now more than ever I believe people of goodwill must unite under the banner of civility and decency. The rancor and uproar of malicious language, cruel words, unacceptable biases, blatant racism and anti-Semitism are rising everywhere. A Black entertainer and conspicuous Black political personality felt perfectly fine wearing “White Lives Matter” t-shirts at a public venue, even though such a phrase denotes underlying white nationalism. A former president of the United States speaks before a public audience saying, “American Jews need to get their act together before it is too late.” The same Black entertainer goes on to state that George Floyd died from a fentanyl overdose and wrote “def con 3 on JEWISH PEOPLE.” In the hours and days after Elon Musk was forced to purchase Twitter, the use of the N-word and other ethnic slurs increased by over 500%. FBI data suggests that 55% of hate crimes from 2020 are directed against the Jewish community. In Florida alone, the number rises to over 80%.

Tragically, this rise of racial, ethnic and religious hatred is not just occurring in the United States. It is rising in other white countries around the world. The Institute of Race Relations reveals that in England and Wales 47,571 racist incidents occurred in 2013/14. That averages out to about 130 incidents...per day. In the same year 44,480 hate crimes were recorded by police in England and Wales. 37,484 were recorded as race hate crimes with 2,273 were recorded as religious hate crimes.

Worldwide there is a rising tide of prejudice and racism against non-white people and non-Christians. It is abysmal and at the same time, totally unacceptable. Our branch of the NAACP goes on record to condemn such white populism and nationalism. Both near and far, whoever speaks in words laced with hatred towards others must be pointed out, condemned and stopped. If we are not quick to condemn racism and anti-Semitism (as well as every other form of discrimination) rest assured it will continue to grow. If we do not hold social media platforms accountable for allowing such hatred to exist under their supervision (or lack thereof) then Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and others will become the perfect hiding places for those intent on

spreading hatred, lies and threats. In every century, the spread of hatred, lies and threats has always led to bloodshed, battles and often enough, wars.

We who are part of the Evanston/North Shore Branch of the NAACP are calling for all individuals, families, companies, corporations, school districts, villages, towns and cities to publicly decry any evidence of racism in your area. We are calling for the elimination of all forms of public racism, anti-Semitism and other biases. Pressure must be placed on those who are using race and religious hatred to stoke the fires of division for political, economic and social purposes. While we may not immediately be able to change the hearts and minds of those filled with such vitriol, we can put a sting in their bank accounts. Racist store owners should lose their ability to serve the public. Racist elected officials should be banned from their offices and not allowed to run for any public office again. Racist police officers should be immediately fired from their positions and reasonable investigations should take place to determine their records as police officers. Racist teachers should be fired and not allowed to teach again. From Presidents and CEO's of corporations to owners of Mom and Pop bakeries, if you are racist, there is no room for you to earn public dollars in our communities.

So many complain about how difficult and impossible it is to eradicate racism. No. It is not difficult to eradicate the racism that creates inequity and injustice against others. What is much more difficult is to live lives of happiness and success as long as racism and anti-Semitism exists. What is much more difficult is to live with such vileness knowing over a half million American soldiers died in an effort to lift the veil of darkness for us to see the light. We must simply tighten the purse strings of racists and deny them any opportunity to earn wealth by spewing hatred and division. Of course this is no easy task. It may mean stopping your patronage at your favorite shop or drinking hole. It may mean choosing another house of worship, a new set of friends or ending relationships with those on your job. It may even mean readjusting relationships with those in your own family.

But there is no alternative. Hatred cannot live in the same space as

love. Evil cannot co-exist with goodness. Racism and anti-Semitism cannot exist besides a love for inclusivity and unity. You have to decide. There is no more time for straddling the fence. And we in the Evanston/North Shore NAACP have decided, love, goodness, inclusivity and unity will absolutely win the day. No. Matter. What.

Michael Nabors

President