

AFT Resolution
Combating White Supremacist Terrorism

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4 WHEREAS, on Aug. 12, 2017, Charlottesville, Va., saw the largest turnout of white
5 supremacists and neo-Nazis in our nation in generations; and
6 WHEREAS, the terror and violence, including the death of one peaceful protestor,
7 Heather Heyer, was a turning point for our country and is a test of moral clarity for all
8 Americans; and

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10 WHEREAS, there is no room for equivocation when it comes to groups whose avowed
11 goal is to destroy and terrorize those they hate: You either stand against racism, anti-
12 Semitism and bigotry or you don't; you either stand against hate groups and white
13 supremacy or you don't; you either stand for our freedoms for all, and for the safety
14 and security of everyone—particularly people of color and those of other marginalized
15 communities—or you don't; and

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17 WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has failed this test of moral clarity, not only by
18 failing to unequivocally and fully repudiate white supremacy and neo-Nazi groups, but
19 by attempting to create a false equivalency between those who protested this terror
20 and intimidation, and the white supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi groups;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, white supremacists and neo-Nazis have said they feel empowered to come
24 out of the shadows and inflict further terror on American communities as a result of
25 [what transpired in Charlottesville](#) and after, and the demonstrations in Boston and
26 elsewhere are a testament to this; and

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28 WHEREAS, Trump has failed to do what any other president would do to reject hate
29 and fulfill his chief obligation to marshal all of the resources at the federal
30 government's disposal to keep all Americans safe; and

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32 WHEREAS, white supremacists and hate groups are targeting public college and
33 university campuses because these institutions are not permitted to make content-
34 based decisions about who speaks on their campuses; and

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36 WHEREAS, as a union, we denounce the hate and bigotry that was on display in
37 Charlottesville and is being unmasked in communities across the country in the
38 strongest possible terms; and

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40 WHEREAS, the AFT has a long and proud history of fighting for equality and freedom
41 for all; fighting against bigotry and hate; safeguarding the civil rights of all; and
42 championing great neighborhood public schools, good jobs that pay a living wage and
43 provide a secure retirement, high-quality and affordable healthcare, and a strong and
44 vibrant democracy that includes a free press, an independent judiciary, a thriving labor
45 movement, and protection of the right to vote; and

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47 WHEREAS, AFT members play a critical role as educators, public employees and
48 caregivers in keeping communities safe and opening the minds of young people by
49 teaching tolerance, critical thinking and history and by strengthening pluralism and
50 democracy; and

51 WHEREAS, our freedoms as a nation are invaluable, and the right to associate, to speak
52 and to protest must be protected, no matter how heinous and despicable that speech
53 is, but voice and violence are two different things; the terrorism inflicted by white
54 supremacists in Charlottesville and elsewhere is a public safety issue; and
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56 WHEREAS, this moment requires more than simply denouncing hatred; it requires
57 action to protect the basic rights and safety of children, families and communities
58 from those who peddle terror and hate, and action to educate our community,
59 particularly our children, about tolerance, truth and the importance of democracy and
60 pluralism:
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62 **RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers condemns hatred and bigotry**
63 **in all forms and will mobilize our members and invest our resources to combat**
64 **hatred, bigotry and the terror inflicted on Americans by white supremacists and**
65 **their ilk, while at the same time fighting to educate our children, safeguard the civil**
66 **liberties of the American people and keep communities safe; and**
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68 **RESOLVED, that the AFT, and our state and local affiliates, will partner with and**
69 **support other groups, elected officials and individuals standing against hate groups**
70 **and white supremacy; and**
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72 **RESOLVED, that the AFT will hold all elected officials accountable for standing up**
73 **to hatred, white supremacy and violence and for promoting equality for all**
74 **Americans; and**
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76 **RESOLVED, that the AFT will continue to promote the power of education by**
77 **providing resources and support to children and families through Share My Lesson**
78 **and other channels, and through convening and participating in town halls, and on**
79 **campuses; and**
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81 **RESOLVED, we encourage AFT state and local affiliates to support all public school**
82 **educators by providing age-appropriate ways of discussing hatred and intolerance**
83 **by widely promoting the lessons and materials on Share My Lesson and other**
84 **platforms that address the racist and anti-Semitic terrorist events in Charlottesville**
85 **and affirm our place as role models against hate; and**
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87 **RESOLVED, that the AFT demands a stepped-up level of action by state attorneys**
88 **general and the U.S. attorney general, not simply to investigate what happened in**
89 **Charlottesville but to probe deeper into the agenda of white supremacist**
90 **organizations and their neo-Nazi allies, and the AFT further calls for**
91 **implementation of a clear plan of action that will ensure bias-motivated violence**
92 **and harassment is prosecuted swiftly and aggressively to keep our communities**
93 **safe; and**
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95 **RESOLVED, that the AFT calls on Congress to censure President Trump for refusing**
96 **to fully repudiate white supremacy and neo-Nazis, defending the actions of hate**
97 **groups and emboldening their cause; and**
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99 **RESOLVED, that the AFT will support peaceful, nonviolent counter-**
100 **demonstrations—such as the protest in Boston, where tens of thousands showed up**

101 **to counter hate groups—and other ways to combat the vile hatred witnessed in**
102 **Charlottesville; and**

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104 **RESOLVED, we encourage AFT state and local affiliates to bring resolutions like this**
105 **one to their memberships, local school boards, city councils and other community**
106 **venues so this fight can be fought in every community in America.**