

NASW-NYC Denounces Terrorism and Violence at the U.S. Capitol

January 7th, 2021

“What the people want is simple. They want an America as good as its promise”.
—Barbara C. Jordan, U.S. congresswoman, 1977

The National Association of Social Workers-NYC Chapter (NASW-NYC) shares the utter shock, dismay, horror, and range of emotions many of you may have had, or are still experiencing, after witnessing the escalation of violence and domestic terrorism at the U.S Capitol displayed yesterday by extremist protestors and rioters.

We, like many of you, watched in disbelief as we saw people breaching the parameters and storming the senate after attending a rally held by President Trump, which was in opposition to the electoral confirmation process of President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris. Regardless of political affiliation or outcome of elections, this behavior is unacceptable, harmful, terrifying, and shows a lack of regard for the democracy of this land.

As a country and world, we continue to witness, and are forced to navigate the devastating and appalling instances of intolerance and hatred —sadly, life was lost because of the violence at the U.S. Capitol yesterday. Furthermore, we cannot pretend to ignore the glaring difference in the response of law enforcement to the violence and attempted coup that took place at the U.S. Capitol yesterday, as compared to the social justice marches of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and other marches highlighting racial and social injustice in America.

In the past few hours, several news outlets, influencers, and people across America and the world, have noted the stark difference in response and treatment of the events. They have pointed out that law enforcement responded with force and violence with #BLM, however; they mostly responded with de-escalation attempts and less force with the extremists who stormed the Capitol, had weapons, incited violence, created unsafe and life-threatening conditions for our representatives and law enforcement officers, damaged government property, and halted legislative proceedings. Several people have shared that they are distraught and in anguish knowing that if yesterday's events had been led by mostly Black and Brown individuals (BIPOC Communities),

there would have been a vastly different response, with certainly more force and loss of life.

NASW-NYC grieves at the ongoing intolerance and hatred, and we wholeheartedly denounce the actions of the rioters and extremists who turned violent at the U.S. Capitol. We stand in solidarity with everyone who continues to experience the trauma and mental health impact of hatred, violence, and intolerance. We affirm the constitutionally protected right to protest and freely express speech, however; we do not condone violence and terrorism that unfolded at the Capitol.

We will continue to boldly respond to, and denounce any actions or behaviors that cause, or have the potential to cause harm to the physical, financial, educational, mental, social, and emotional well-being of all people. We will continue to stand against terrorism, bigotry, racism, all forms of discrimination, and intolerance.

In solidarity,

The NASW-NYC Chapter