

October 30, 2018

**Letter from the CEO:
NCCADV Calls for a Unified Stance Against Acts of Violence**

I hear about violence every day. As the CEO of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the focus of our work is with intervention and prevention solutions. We know that the connections between persons committing domestic violence and perpetrators of mass shootings are compelling and too great to ignore.

We are undoubtedly at a period of US history in which societal violence has heightened, fueled by the accessibility of guns and the far-reaching effects of social media. In the past two weeks, we have seen xenophobic outrage directed at migrants from Central America, racially-motivated murders of Black individuals in Kentucky, the government denial of the existence of transgender and gender non-conforming identities, and the anti-Semitic mass shooting of Jewish people in a Pittsburgh synagogue. Violence is encouraged with words designed to evoke fear – fear of those who worship, appear, or express in ways that are different from ourselves. The divisive rhetoric and action of our political leaders feed the division and opens the door to create harsh animosity. This is not us. Our government leaders are failing to lead the nation towards civility.

This is a call for all leaders—those of scout troops, families, businesses, organizations, school committees, healthcare and educational institutions, and particularly those in positions of authority—to speak strongly and decisively against actions and words that support white nationalism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia, and to encourage moral conversations that discourage divisiveness. We all must #represent humanity. Our lives depend on it.

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Chief Executive Officer
North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence