



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF OFFICIAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
AGENCIES

August 17, 2017

IAOHRA@sso.org

A District of Columbia
Nonprofit Corporation

Dear IAOHRA Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express our sadness and deep concern after the tragic events in Charlottesville, and to call to action -- against hate -- all of our member agencies. We extend our caring thoughts and prayers to the family of Heather Heyer, to the families of the State Police troopers who were killed in the helicopter crash, to those who were injured, both physically and emotionally, and to all who promoted peace in Charlottesville.

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This has been another challenging week for our country. There is too much hate in America. President Trump has enabled and emboldened hate groups and has failed to condemn Neo-Nazi and White Supremacy groups, the beliefs they profess, and the violence they promote.

As a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, IAOHRA is committed to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the other 200 member organizations and with all of you, speaking out against hate and discrimination, speaking up in our communities, and taking specific action against hate groups so that they cannot make money and thrive.

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IAOHRA member agencies play an important role in our states and communities, working closely with elected officials, chiefs of police, historic preservationists, communications professionals and even recreation and park officials. Let us as human rights officials seize the opportunities we have to offer our advice, hold hearings, promote constructive dialogue, anticipate events and social conditions that might lead to discrimination, and remove barriers to equality and full participation.

We have come too far, and too many have sacrificed too much, to let down our guard for a moment.

Regional Representatives:

James L. Stowe, Atlantic

Diane Clements-Boyd, Midwest

Beverly L. Watts, South

Sharon Ortiz, West

Jean Kelleher, President IAOHRA