

## SHAC Director's Special Message on the Violence in Charlottesville



Just over one year ago, I sent out a message similar to this one today, expressing sadness and concern about the state of violent events in America. Over the weekend, a new...or resurrected...face of American violence shook a college campus back East and all of America. The brazen faces of White Supremacy and Neo-Naziism, many of whom were college students, terrorized Americans with threats

of harm and oppression. Those threatened—people of color, Jews and Muslims, immigrants, LGBTQ people, women—are all of us. Not all of us because we are represented in one of those groups, but all of us because the vision this violent crowd is promoting is one that is Anti-America. Their vision is scary and it is dangerous; people died and were injured last weekend, and many have suffered and died throughout history with uprisings of this sort. The danger is real.

So let us not minimize nor silence the anxieties among us. They are not irrational. They signal the need for protection and support. What we can do during this time is to voice our support for those who are being overtly targeted. It is often difficult for targeted people to know who one's allies are. If you are an ally, speak up to those around you and ask how you can help. If you have been targeted and need protection, seek help with the many staff and faculty who are here to serve and who have committed to making UNM a true and beneficent reflection of all of humanity.

If you're a student and your distress about these times begins to overwhelm you, please seek us out and know that services at SHAC are available for walk-ins and by phone 24/7/365 at 277-3136. You can speak with a counselor or medical provider or get consultation about how to help others. You can also reach out to the many other support services on campus. Faculty and Staff in need of assistance may contact CARS at 272-6868.

SMcIver, PhD & JWilterding,MD 08/14/17

"I have decided to stick to love ... Hate is too great a burden to bear." (MLK, Jr.)