



## **1 - Demand Congress Formally Censure Trump for his Endorsement of White Supremacy**

from 5 Calls

On August 11th and 12th, a largely male crowd affiliated with various white supremacist hate groups descended upon Charlottesville, Virginia for a "Unite the Right" rally. KKK members, Neo-Nazis, alt-righters, and other white domestic terrorists openly threw Nazi salutes; used anti-LGBT, anti-black, anti-Muslim chants and symbols; and assaulted counter-protesters. Horrifyingly, one Neo-Nazi attendee drove his car into a group of protesters, injuring 19 people and murdering 32 year-old Heather Heyer.

In the wake of this despicable violence, Trump has repeatedly failed to condemn these racist domestic terrorists. He has twice claimed that "both sides" were responsible for the horror in Charlottesville, and his latest remarks on August 15 utterly negated his earlier "repudiation" of racism and racist terrorists. Trump's comments demonstrate he is willing to defend the KKK, the alt-right movement, neo-Nazis, and white supremacists and endorse their acts of violence and hatred. There is no ambiguity about who caused the terror in Charlottesville, who advocated for genocidal violence, or who murdered a young woman standing up against racism.

House Democrats Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), and Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) have introduced a resolution of censure condemning Trump's failure to adequately condemn the white domestic terrorism committed in Charlottesville and his hiring of white supremacist sympathizers Steve Bannon and Sebastian Gorka. Presidential censures are extremely rare and have only been used a handful of times in congressional history to publicly condemn a president. Trump's appalling endorsement of white supremacy necessitates an unprecedented response. Members of Congress must speak out in unison to censure Trump's endorsement of racist terror and hate.

**Your script and/or postcard:**

Hi, my name is [NAME] and I'm a constituent from New York.

[IF CALLING HOUSE] I'm calling to demand that Rep. XXX support the House resolution censuring Trump for his failure to condemn the white supremacist violence committed in Charlottesville. Congress must unite in formally denouncing Trump's endorsement of racist violence.

If Nadler is your Rep – Just call to thank him for his courage and strong moral compass during this horrific time. We stand fully behind you.

[IF CALLING SENATE] I'm calling to demand that Senator XXX introduce a formal resolution censuring Trump for his failure to condemn the white supremacist violence committed in Charlottesville. Congress must unite in formally denouncing Trump's endorsement of racist violence.

Thank you for your time and attention.

[IF LEAVING A VOICEMAIL: please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied]

**2 – Demand Removal of Bannon, Gorka, and Miller from the White House**

from 5 Calls

The tragic events in Charlottesville on Saturday, August 12th rocked the United States to the core. As famed racist David Duke proclaimed that the purpose of the event was to “fulfill the promises of Donald Trump” and to “take our country back,” white supremacists and neo-Nazis rallied and attacked counter protesters. James Alex Fields is now charged with 2nd-degree murder for ramming his car into a group of protesters, killing Heather Heyer, a 32 year old anti-racist protester.

In times of hatred-fueled turmoil, Americans should be able to depend on the President to reaffirm American values of justice, fairness, and equality for all. Instead, after hours of silence, Donald Trump falsely equated white supremacists carrying Confederate and Nazi flags while chanting "Heil Trump" with the counter protesters defending civil rights. Although the White House has issued a clarification that their denunciation “includes white supremacists, KKK and all extremist groups”, this too little, too late, and still too weak approach leaves Americans wondering if their President actually supported these actions.

This massive failure of leadership should not come as a surprise to anyone since Donald Trump has at least 3 White House advisors who support white supremacist ideologies: Steven Bannon, Sebastian Gorka, and Steven Miller. Each man has a history of either promoting their own racist views or amplifying the views of other extremists.

The White House needs to cut ties to these three divisive figures to show the nation and the world that the President does not endorse racism, white supremacy, the KKK or Nazism. It is now time for Congress to call for their resignation so we can begin to heal from the damage that has been done.

### **Your script and/or postcard**

Hi, my name is [NAME] and I'm a constituent from New York.

I'm calling to demand that Rep. XXX call for the resignation of Steve Bannon, Sebastian Gorka and Stephen Miller. These three men have histories of extremist ideologies and should not be working in the White House. The American people deserve a Presidential administration that has no ties to racism, the KKK, white supremacy, or Nazis.

Thank you for your time and attention.

[IF LEAVING A VOICEMAIL: please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied]

### **3 - Stop Trump from Destroying the ACA from 5 Calls**

While Republicans have failed to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Trump has indicated his willingness to sabotage the law through other means. ACA analyses have repeatedly shown that the individual markets are largely functioning well, with cost-sharing subsidies shielding buyers from premium cost increases. However, Trump and the Department of Health and Human Services, led by Tom Price, are taking steps to destabilize these markets.

Trump is currently threatening to withhold insurance payments known as cost-sharing reductions (CSRs), which allow insurers to offer lower-cost individual market plans with lower out-of-pocket costs to low-income consumers. The Congressional Budget Office has released an analysis concluding termination of CSR payments would increase premiums for the most popular individual market plans by 20% next year and 25% by 2020 and leave about 5% of the population without access to any individual plans at all. By contrast, if the CSRs are left in place, less than 0.5% of the population would live in a region without access to individual market plans.

Despite the CBO's findings and insurance experts insistence that ACA markets are stable, the Trump administration has refused to commit to paying CSRs. Instead, he and his Republican allies in Congress appear willing to sabotage the ACA for political gain, creating turmoil in the individual insurance market and causing real harm to individuals.

### **Call this office:**

Call/write to your congressperson and senators and the Department of Health and Human Services, Tom Price - Director

[202-205-5445](tel:202-205-5445) HHS number because this organization is driving legislation related to the issue.

Hi, my name is [NAME] and I'm a constituent from New York.

[IF CALLING REP or SEN]: I'm calling to express my serious concern about Trump's intention to let Obamacare fail and put the lives of millions of Americans at risk. I urge [REP/SEN NAME] to immediately pass legislation to stabilize the insurance market and ensure the ACA's cost-sharing subsidies are fully funded. The American people want to see the insurance market fixed, not sabotaged for political gain.

[IF CALLING HHS]: I'm calling to express my serious concern about Trump's intention to let Obamacare fail and put the lives of millions of Americans at risk. I urge Secretary Price to continue cost-sharing reduction payments and enforcement of the individual mandate in order to maintain stability in our national insurance market. The American people want to see the insurance market fixed, not sabotaged for political gain.

Thank you for your hard work answering the phones.

[IF LEAVING A VOICEMAIL: please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied]

**4 – Stand in support of the Charlottesville Jewish community – write/call Congregation Beth Israel and join us to pose with a lighted candle as we post on twitter and facebook that we are standing with them in solidarity. See below for more from the president of the shul.**

**In Charlottesville, the Local Jewish Community Presses On *from Reform Judaism Magazine***  
By Alan Zimmerman , 8/14/2017

At [Congregation Beth Israel](#) in Charlottesville, VA, we are deeply grateful for the support and prayers of the broader Reform Jewish community. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Heather Heyer and the two Virginia State Police officers, H. Jay Cullen and Berke Bates, who lost their lives on Saturday, and with the many people injured in the attack who are still recovering.

The loss of life far outweighs any fear or concern felt by me or the Jewish community during the past several weeks as we braced for this Nazi rally – but the effects of both will each linger.

On Saturday morning, I stood outside our synagogue with the armed security guard we hired after the police department refused to provide us with an officer during morning services. (Even the police department's limited promise of an observer near our building was not kept — and note, we did not ask for protection of our property, only our people as they worshipped).

Forty congregants were inside. Here's what I witnessed during that time.

For half an hour, three men dressed in fatigues and armed with semi-automatic rifles stood across the street from the temple. Had they tried to enter, I don't know what I could have done to stop them, but I couldn't take my eyes off them, either. Perhaps the presence of our armed guard deterred them. Perhaps their presence was just a coincidence, and I'm paranoid. I don't know.

Several times, parades of Nazis passed our building, shouting, “There's the synagogue!” followed by chants of “Seig Heil” and other anti-Semitic language. Some carried flags with swastikas and other Nazi symbols.

A guy in a white polo shirt walked by the synagogue a few times, arousing suspicion. Was he casing the building, or trying to build up courage to commit a crime? We didn't know. Later, I noticed that the man accused in the automobile terror attack wore the same polo shirt as the man who kept walking by our synagogue; apparently it's the uniform of a white supremacist group. Even now, that gives me a chill.

When services ended, my heart broke as I advised congregants that it would be safer to leave the temple through the back entrance rather than through the front, and to please go in groups.

This is 2017 in the United States of America.

Later that day, I arrived on the scene shortly after the car plowed into peaceful protesters. It was a horrific and bloody scene.

Soon, we learned that Nazi websites had posted a call to burn our synagogue. I sat with one of our rabbis and wondered whether we should go back to the temple to protect the building. What could I do if I were there? Fortunately, it was just talk – but we had already deemed such an attack within the realm of possibilities, taking the precautionary step of removing our Torahs, including a Holocaust scroll, from the premises.

Again: This is in America in 2017.

At the end of the day, we felt we had no choice but to cancel a Havdalah service at a congregant's home. It had been announced on a public Facebook page, and we were fearful that Nazi elements might be aware of the event. Again, we sought police protection – not a battalion of police, just a single officer – but we were told simply to cancel the event.

Local police faced an unprecedented problem that day, but make no mistake, Jews are a specific target of these groups, and despite nods of understanding from officials about our concerns – and despite the fact that the mayor himself is Jewish – we were left to our own devices. The fact that a calamity did not befall the Jewish community of Charlottesville on Saturday was not thanks to our politicians, our police, or even our own efforts, but to the grace of God.

And yet, in the midst of all that, other moments stand out for me, as well.

John Aguilar, a 30-year Navy veteran, took it upon himself to stand watch over the synagogue through services Friday evening and Saturday, along with our armed guard. He just felt he should.

We experienced wonderful turnout for services both Friday night and Saturday morning to observe [Shabbat](#), including several non-Jews who said they came to show solidarity (though a number of congregants, particularly elderly ones, told me they were afraid to come to synagogue).

A frail, elderly woman approached me Saturday morning as I stood on the steps in front of our sanctuary, crying, to tell me that while she was Roman Catholic, she wanted to stay and watch

over the synagogue with us. At one point, she asked, “Why do they hate you?” I had no answer to the question we’ve been asking ourselves for thousands of years.

At least a dozen complete strangers stopped by as we stood in front the synagogue Saturday to ask if we wanted them to stand with us.

And our wonderful rabbis stood on the front lines with other Charlottesville clergy, opposing hate.

Most attention now is, and for the foreseeable future will be, focused on the deaths and injuries that occurred, and that is as it should be. But for most people, before the week is out, Saturday’s events will degenerate into the all-to-familiar bickering that is part of the larger, ongoing political narrative. The media will move on — and all it will take is some new outrageous Trump tweet to change the subject.

We will get back to normal, also. We have two b’nai mitzvah coming up, and soon, [Rosh HaShanah](#) and [Yom Kippur](#) will be upon us, too.

After the nation moves on, we will be left to pick up the pieces. Fortunately, this is a very strong and capable Jewish community, blessed to be led by incredible rabbis. We have committed lay leadership, and a congregation committed to Jewish values and our synagogue. In some ways, we will come out of it stronger – just as tempering metals make them tougher and harder.

**Join the Reform Jewish community's response to the hate and bigotry in Charlottesville. This week, #BeTheLightForJustice: Take a photo of yourself holding a candle of unity, then post it to Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag. Next, [learn about action steps to take for direct responses to terror](#) from the Union for Reform Judaism.**

*Alan Zimmerman is the president of [Congregation Beth Israel](#) in Charlottesville, VA.*