Statement from Funders for Reproductive Equity Leaders: Toward a More Just Nation

In this painful and alarming time, the leaders of Funders for Reproductive Equity join the chorus of justice-seekers taking a stand against white supremacy and all forms of oppression. Recent events, including the Charlottesville march and melee of torch-bearing racists and neo-nazis and the terrorist murder there of civil rights activist Heather Heyer, have brought into stark relief the vicious bigotry festering across the United States. We condemn this hatefulness and those in our country’s leadership who encourage it. We stand in solidarity with those fighting for a more just and loving nation.

These kinds of extremists put forth a corrupt catalog of discrimination and hateful rhetoric against immigrants, people of color, Jews, LGBTQ people and others, not least of which are women. As supporters of reproductive equity, we are steeped in the harrowing experiences of women, especially women of color, whose struggle to control our own sexual and reproductive lives is continual (and even worsening in many states). Women of color have long faced the greatest barriers to reproductive equity and justice, including coercive fertility control practices, denials of reproductive health care and targeted policing and punishment. We know there can be no reproductive justice without racial justice. Indeed, reproductive freedom requires freedom from all axes of oppression.

FRE’s leadership applauds the statements from across philanthropy and the non-profit sector against white supremacy and neo-nazism. We hope these statements manifest in sustained action for change on the part of as many of us as possible. We welcome opportunities to collaborate cross-sector to this end. We are inspired by and commend our grantees and others who link arms across issue areas in favor of justice and equity.

As the Board of Directors and Executive Director of FRE, we pledge to continue our own journey toward racial justice and to work to dismantle white supremacy in all its forms and manifestations.

RESOURCES
Below we offer some excellent resources and links on this topic. We welcome the addition of others that you find helpful.

Background reading and viewing (most shared via the Campaign for Southern Equality):
- Charlottesville: Race and Terror (20 min video from VICE News)
- The Hoods Are Off by Matt Johnson for The Atlantic
- The Dark Minds of the Alt-Right by Olga Khazan for The Atlantic
- ‘Pro-Life’ Groups Praise Trump But Are Silent on Charlottesville by Amy Littlefield for Rewire

Action:
- 8 Actions to Support Charlottesville and Organize Locally
- Recording from 8.14.17 Call hosted by Grassroots Global Justice (organizing groups responding to Charlottesville)

White Allyship (shared via the Campaign for Southern Equality)
- Essential Reading: Charlottesville by The Lit Review
Syllabus for White People to Educate Themselves, a collaborative Google doc with a great list of resources

Opportunities for White People in the Fight for Racial Justice: Moving from Actor to Ally to Accomplice from whiteaccomplices.org

Philanthropic Tool from FRE re: Race
Authentic & Equitable Partnerships: A Framework for Building Movements