

## Fighting the Common Enemy

### Dear Hornet Family:

Impressive, thought-provoking, and informative are three of the words that defined last night's townhall, which was sparked by the resurgence of swastikas and white supremacist imagery found on and around our Sac State campus; in our region, state, country; and in the divisive rhetoric we hear today. The swastika symbol universally represents antisemitism, which is hatred, discrimination, and the desire for the annihilation of Jewish peoples. It also represents our common enemy of domination, oppression, and the false ideas of white supremacy that impact us all.

The townhall moderators moved the audience through three expert panels, from communal awareness to strategies for collaborative healing, culminating with a case for collective action. The faculty-led townhall intentionally called us to remember the 1938 inhumane acts of [Kristallnacht \(the Night of Broken Glass\)](#), when synagogues and Jewish property were burned and destroyed and more than 400 Jews were killed or driven to commit suicide, as well as the [1999 torching](#) of three Jewish synagogues in California within 30 minutes. Several of the panelists educated the audience about the constant fear under which Jewish people live, which requires guarded synagogues to protect against those who perpetuate hate against Jews based solely on their ethnicity, ancestry, and association with Judaism.

The panel reminded us that these acts of hate are not isolated to one community. Each of us from our own ancestral and ethnic histories have similar stories. These include the [1963 bombing](#) of the 16<sup>th</sup> Baptist Church in Alabama, where four Black girls were killed; the 2019 New Zealand mosque shooting, which killed 50 Muslim people and wounded many others; the March 16, 2021 [shooting of Asian Americans](#) at a spa in Atlanta; the public murder of [George Floyd](#); and the May 14 shooting at a [Buffalo supermarket](#), where 10 Black individuals were killed and three wounded by a gunman fueled by racial-ethnic hate for Black people, also known as "anti-Blackness." The lists of hate incidences are long, as we have all witnessed violent acts of hate against Black, Asian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Latinx, and Native American communities. All of these horrific incidences share a common enemy.

So, how do we combat this common enemy and move toward healing?

We know from writer and civil rights activist Audre Lorde that we cannot dismantle the master's house with the master's tools of hate and violence. The panel, and a sobering message from Sacramento Mayor Steinberg, called for us to join together in a demonstration of love and solidarity. To stand up to the horrors of hate not only when they happen to our particular group, but to be brave, stand up, and call out hate when it happens to other groups. To call those who have generic identities to consider a [white abolitionist](#) identity over a white supremacist hate identity.

Two of the most profound ideas toward collective action were offered by expert panelists Dr. Anne Kjemtrup and Rabbi Mona Alfi. They encouraged us to consider Radical Peace and to bridge differences as we reclaim humanity. To that end, as we continue to make progress on our [Antiracism and Inclusive Campus action plan](#), I am excited to work with Dr. Rose Borunda from the College of Education; Director of Belonging Education, and Support Katherine Betts; and Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Cultural Transformation Dr. Michael Nguyen on developing opportunities for "Bridging and Belonging" facilitated workshops as we work together to combat the common enemy and solve equity, inclusion, and belonging dilemmas that impact us all. I hope that you will join us in our efforts to decrease hate and increase love and peace on our beloved campus and in our community.

As part of the effort to follow up on the Town Hall, we are seeking your feedback on how we can take collaborative action to help our campus stand against any form of hatred and make our community more inclusive. Please use the QR code or follow the link below to share your thoughts, we greatly appreciate your contribution.



[Sac State Collaborative Action Questionnaire](#)

**In partnership,**

**Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell**

**VP for Inclusive Excellence & University Diversity Officer**

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