

# Advocacy Update

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August 17, 2017

WRJ is enraged by this weekend's horrific events by neo-Nazis and white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia. Our hearts and prayers are with the victims of these hateful acts and their friends and family.

From our [statement in 1936](#) to today, WRJ takes a stand against hate groups and white supremacy. Together, we must continue our work in opposition to racist and anti-Semitic messages and actions. Here are a some resources to help you get started to do just that:

- This weekend, we will come [#TogetherAtTheTable](#) for a celebration of unity and diversity in the face of fear and division. [Pledge to host or attend a grassroots Shabbat meal](#) across the country.
- WRJ Southeast District has checked-in with the two sisterhoods in the region, and we will keep you updated on what needs, if any, they may have.
- WRJ has made a donation from the [WRJ Social Justice Fund](#) to the local URJ-affiliated congregation, Congregation Beth Israel, to help support their security needs and social justice efforts.
- Join WRJ and the Reform Movement by sharing a photo of yourself holding a candle with the hashtag [#BeTheLightForJustice](#). Help us spread the light.
- Read and share [URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs' statement](#) condemning hate speech and calling for an end to violence.
- [Read the ReformJudaism.org blog by Alan Zimmerman](#), president of Congregation Beth Israel in Charlottesville, about what he witnessed last Saturday.
- [Urge your representatives to denounce the violence in Charlottesville and act to delegitimize all forms of racism.](#)
- On September 9, ACT for America, the largest anti-Muslim hate group in the country, is planning a series of protests in cities throughout the country. If one is planned in your community, write to your mayor urging them to condemn this type of hatred and speak up for inclusion in your community.
- Read [Kate Bigam's blog post](#) on [ReformJudaism.org](#) to view a range of Jewish stories from Charlottesville.
- Help WRJ continue its important social justice work by making a [donation to help strengthen our efforts.](#)

