

## **SCD Resolution: Condemning Hate Groups and Depriving Them of Democratic Platform**

WHEREAS a hate group is defined by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as “an organization that – based on its official statements or principles, the statements of its leaders, or its activities – has beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics;”<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS The New York Times cited Eric Kaufmann, a professor at Birkbeck University of London on the intersection of ethnicity and politics, giving this definition of white nationalism: “the belief that national identity should be built around white ethnicity, and [...] maintain both a demographic majority and dominance of the nation’s culture and public life;”<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS the Inland Northwest has historically been a hotbed of systemic racism and anti-indigenous colonialism, which has fueled white-identity extremism, separatism, and terroristic activity, requiring sustained community resistance<sup>3</sup> as well as combat and dispersal by federal law enforcement;<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS groups such as Identity Evropa,<sup>5</sup> Patriot Prayer,<sup>6</sup> the Proud Boys,<sup>7</sup> and others engage in campaigns of propaganda and harassment in support of white supremacy, white nationalism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, ableism, and ethnic and religious exclusion, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia;

WHEREAS other groups, such as Northwest Grassroots<sup>8</sup> and Respect Washington,<sup>9</sup> offer normalizing platforms for these harmful movements and their attempts to undermine American values by directing US and Washington State policy toward oppression through force of law;

WHEREAS hate groups, and those that seek to normalize them, often use the presence of elected officials to legitimize their gatherings and by extension their propaganda;<sup>10</sup> and

WHEREAS the propaganda espoused by hate groups is antithetical to the Democratic values of diversity, inclusion, and a safe society for all;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Spokane County Democrats will honor local history of popular and political resistance to systemic oppression, xenophobia, and racism, and condemn white supremacy, white nationalism, and fascistic speech and violence in all its forms.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Spokane County Democrats will not offer a platform to any organization that espouses white nationalism, white supremacy, or other exclusionary philosophies that are counter to the American value that we are “e pluribus unum,” one people out of many places and cultures.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Spokane County Democrats ask our elected officials and community leaders to shun involvement with hate groups or organizations that offer platforms to white nationalists: to not join, support, or promote said organizations.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Spokane County Democrats will share this resolution on the Spokane County Democrats’ website and social media accounts, send a copy to all our Democratic or non-partisan endorsed elected officials, and share it with every candidate seeking endorsement from the Spokane County Democratic Central Committee.

**Signed:**

Jac Archer, Vice Chair, Spokane County Democrats

Andy McGee, Committee Member, 3th Legislative District Democrats

Rebekah Mason, Vice Chair, 4th Legislative District Democrats

Jeff Beaulac, Committee Member, 4th Legislative District Democrats

Michaela Kelso, Vice Chair, 7th Legislative District Democrats

Jesse Leavy, Executive Board Representative, 9th LD Democrats

Nick CastroLang, Executive Board Representative, Spokane County Young Democrats

**Citations:**

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