

## **CONDEMNING WHITE NATIONALISM**

WHEREAS, white nationalists have been emboldened by the Trump administration and other right-wing extremist movements throughout the world have resurfaced as a very real domestic terrorist threat; and

WHEREAS, white nationalists have, according to the U.S. Congress, “exploited bigotry and weaponized hate for political gain,” against Black Americans, Latinx people, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, people from the Middle East, other people of color, Jewish people, Muslim people, Hindu people, Sikh people, the LGBTQ community, immigrants generally, the differently abled, women, and other marginalized groups; and

WHEREAS, in June 2015, a white nationalist entered Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and murdered nine black churchgoers in order to incite a nationwide race war; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, American mosques were targeted with bombings and/or burnings in Bloomington, Minnesota; Austin and Victoria, Texas; Bellevue, Washington; and Thonotosassa, Florida; and

WHEREAS, in August 2017, white nationalists, neo-Confederates, neo-Nazis, and KKK members converged on Charlottesville, Virginia, where they engaged in anti-Semitic and racist hate speech that ultimately led to the murder of anti-racist activist Heather Heyer; and

WHEREAS, in October 2018, a white nationalist entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and murdered eleven Jewish worshippers while screaming he “wanted all Jews to die;” and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 37 percent increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions in 2017 and a 99

percent increase in hate crimes against Muslims or Muslim institutions between 2014 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, all Americans benefit from a society in which its citizens are able to live free of fear because of who they are, who they love, or who they worship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OPEIU and its affiliates condemn and reject white nationalism and stand against bigotry and discrimination in all forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we will educate, organize and activate our members to work with like-minded organizations to extinguish this hateful ideology once and for all.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019