

July 27, 2018  
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about racist violence. Hate crimes have long been a problem with violent individuals encouraged by peer groups and the tenor of political leaders to act out their frustrations. Such acts are particularly damaging to society as large swathes of the population are made to feel vulnerable. Growing up gay I was never physically attacked, but friends were and the constant background fear certainly impacted my life. Last year there were several white nationalist rallies such as in Charlottesville and here in Berkeley. The Southern Poverty Law Center has found that the number of hate groups has been rising, particularly racist ones. Similarly the number of hate crimes by white nationalists has grown. Whatever your personal views, as our elected leader it is your job to work for the safety of everyone. Unfortunately, both the SLPC and white nationalist leaders themselves cite your comments as encouraging this violent trend, even deciding that the white house seems an appropriate place to rally.

*Please assure me that you will consistently condemn racism.*

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our open society.

Sincerely,  
Eric Babson