



United Way
of Northern California

Statement on Violence and Equal Justice

January 9, 2021

United Way of Northern California (UWNC) stands with all concerned citizens demanding the right to conduct democratic process without threat or use of violence and intimidation. We are alarmed by the riots at the Capitol this week, and we condemn without reservation the violence and resulting loss of life.

We also acknowledge that dynamics fueling those events have fomented throughout the country, including in the North State. United Way fights for better education, income and health for all citizens. As demonstrated by the divide in our community about controlling the spread of COVID-19, progress in those areas requires vigorous, honest discussions about public policy. Those discussions must be held in an environment of mutual respect and trust, free from fear and intimidation. We are all accountable to ensuring that public policy focuses on the common good.

UWNC stands firmly against racism and for equal justice and social equity. Our ongoing struggle as a nation in this area was on display again Wednesday. The fact that mostly white rioters infiltrated the Capitol without facing the level of force seen from law enforcement during some of the peaceful protests by multi-ethnic coalitions in recent months – including many protesters who identify as Black, Indigenous or a person of color – shows a stark disparity in how civil liberties are experienced in the United States. UWNC, through its sponsorships of the North State Equity Fund and the Shasta Equal Justice Coalition, will continue to promote education, fairness, dialogue and healing in our region.

United Way calls on all in our communities to absorb the lessons of this momentous week, which follows too many alarming and regrettable instances of deadly confrontations last summer. Let us continue to build a North State where residents, law enforcement and public officials work constructively and peacefully toward the common good.