



NLG SOUTHERN REGION
STATEMENT CONDEMNING WHITE SUPREMACY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Atlanta, GA—The National Lawyers Guild (NLG), founded in 1937 as the first racially-integrated, human rights bar association, is committed to ending white supremacy in all its forms. This includes white supremacy within our own organization. The Southern state and local chapters, provide mass defense legal support for community organizers participating in anti-racist direct actions and other forms or protests. We will continue to provide legal support and stand with community organizers who will and are, right now, putting their hearts, and bodies on the line through direct action to topple monuments and symbols of white supremacy.

As lawyers, legal workers, law students, and community activists in the South we all know too well how deeply ingrained and routine widespread white supremacy is in our community. We cannot forget the essential fact that the United States was founded on white supremacy—it is neither new nor is it only found only in the South. We must admit our own complicity - it is not only our elected officials who are bound to and continually perpetuate exploitative systems of oppression - we ourselves are guilty of benefiting, in one way or another, from our institutions of capitalism, racism, patriarchy, and other systems of oppression.

We know that a public outcry to take down Confederate symbols is just the tip of the iceberg. So while, we applaud the work of those who are taking down and removing Confederate statutes and monuments, we encourage all to remember that symbolic actions does not eliminate the systemic racism from our nation. There has not been a public call to destroy the monuments, but for them to be placed elsewhere like a museum, where there are no monuments that exist to celebrate black liberation.

Recall the actions of the thousands that stood up at Standing Rock, an Indigenous peoples led movement, resonated across the USA and overseas because it directly challenged the white supremacy that stripped the land from the Indigenous people and the values of capitalism that places profit over people. Standing Rock was a victory because it was a direct challenge to the sovereignty of the United States and a critique of the oppressive systems that ensnare us. Fighting white supremacy must include an analysis of how settle colonialism and capitalism continue to be tools that oppress and disenfranchise brown and black people, queer and trans people, and women and children.

It is this hope of dismantling all oppression that we move forward in the struggle to liberate our institutions, society, and, ultimately, our entire American culture.
