



Buffalo Response Plan and Policy Recommendations

Following the racially-motivated act of domestic terrorism in Buffalo, New York, that left 10 people dead, the NAACP released the following plan to combat white supremacy and hate crimes:

Social Media + Corporate Accountability

In our country, social media giants, mainstream media outlets, and traditional corporations should not be allowed to knowingly originate or spread hate and white nationalism messages. Any type of corporation that funds or profits from hate - especially white supremacy - should be held accountable for the serious role they play in the spike of hate crimes we are witnessing in communities across the country. The NAACP has the following policy recommendations to improve social media and corporate accountability, and the Black experience in America:

- Fox News represents the worst of American broadcasting. The media outlet, through shows like Tucker Carlson Tonight, has used its “news” division to sow bigotry and racism, create dissension, spread misinformation, and promote conspiracy theories that continually encourage violence. Advertisers and corporations must take a moral stance and stop funding and subsidizing Fox News, directly and indirectly.
- Sporting organizations, such as the National Football League (NFL), should be required to only contract with news and media outlets that do not actively spread hate. The NFL must stop subsidizing Fox News.
- The DOJ and FTC must aggressively engage social media platforms on the issues of mis- and disinformation that create spaces where communities of hate target young people. Black and brown communities provide revenue to these platforms; platforms should be required to prove they are acting responsibly.
- Corporations should be required to publicly disclose monthly if they fund networks, such as Fox News, that continuously spread lies, dangerous conspiracies, and hate speech.
- Former President Donald Trump, and other extremist leaders, groups, and accounts that fuel hatred and violence, must be permanently banned from all social media platforms.
- Social media platforms must submit to regular, third-party, independent audits of identity-based hate and misinformation with summary results published on a publicly accessible website.
- Provide audit of and refund to advertisers whose ads were shown next to content that was later removed for violations of terms of service.
- Social media platforms must identify and remove public and private groups focused on white supremacy, militia, antisemitism, violent conspiracies, Holocaust denialism, vaccine misinformation, and climate denialism.
- Social media platforms must create an internal mechanism to automatically flag hateful content with independent verification by human eyes - even when algorithms are used for initial verification. If this requires large investments in human capital, the public deserves no less.
- Social media platforms must ensure accuracy in political and voting matters by eliminating the politician exemption; removing misinformation related to voting, and prohibiting calls to violence by politicians in any format.
- Social media platforms must create expert teams to review submissions of identity-based hate and harassment. These expert team members must also be available to connect with individuals who are facing severe hate and harassment.

Gun Violence Prevention

A violent white supremacist, such as the one who murdered 10 people over in the Buffalo attack, should never be able to easily buy an assault rifle and cause this level of meditated devastation. The NAACP has the following policy recommendations to improve gun control and the Black experience in America:

- All gun sales and transfers should require universal background checks. Eliminate the gun show loophole that bypasses background checks.
- Military-style semi-automatic assault guns and high-capacity ammunition clips should be banned.

- Enact new criminal penalties for straw purchasers and gun traffickers.
- Create a domestic terror watch list and ban suspects on the foreign and domestic terror watch lists from purchasing firearms.
- Repeal the current ban on data collection and allow the Center for Disease Control to research and report on gun violence as a major public health issue.
- Incentivize and assist states in improving their overall reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
- The current law of the land regarding silencers must remain unchanged.
- Although the federal ban on "bump stock" machine gun-type conversion kits, took effect in March 2019, additional restrictions are needed on accessories, and parts from being sold in or shipped to the U.S.
- Require microstamping or ballistic fingerprinting of all new firearms sold in the U.S.
- Allow states and localities to maintain and enforce their respective "concealed carry" laws.
- Repeal state "stand your ground" laws, restoring the use of deadly force as a last resort across the U.S.
- Encourage local jurisdictions to utilize their "buyer power" to create incentives for firearm manufacturers to employ "counter marketing" strategies to ensure that their retailers are using all available procedures to prevent illegal firearms diversion.

Police Reform

There remains a double standard in policing in communities across the country. Black people are killed at traffic stops, or while they are peacefully existing in their own homes, and white nationalist murderers continue to be peacefully arrested, like in Buffalo. Police can clearly de-escalate a mass shooting and they should prioritize the same level of human dignity in Black communities. The NAACP has the following policy recommendations to improve police reform and the Black experience in America:

- The Biden Administration must sign the police reform executive order floated by the White House in recent months on or before the 2nd anniversary of George Floyd's murder (May 25, 2022). While it is not a substitute for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, the executive order is urgent and necessary.
- Congress should pass legislation to end qualified immunity. No badge should be a shield from accountability.
- The Biden Administration must use its authority to facilitate desperately-needed transformation of policing policies and practices — including a focus on implicit bias and the mental health of officers. Implicit bias training can improve safety by allowing officers to see individuals in the communities they police.
- All police and law enforcement officers must submit to a thorough review of their affiliations to determine they are not aligned with white supremacist organizations.
- Police officers and municipalities must be held accountable for acts of excessive force, sexual misconduct, and obstruction of justice. When these instances occur, that information should be made available on a publicly accessible platform.
- The Department of Justice must be provided with authority and resources needed to set national standards for policing and enforcing the nation's civil rights laws when they are violated by law enforcement officers.
- The FBI and other law enforcement agencies should engage communities to "train the trainer" - engaging community stakeholders on mis- and disinformation and threat assessment.