



August 2017

Dear Supporters and Friends,

The Illinois Innocence Project denounces the deeply disturbing expressions of hate, racism and bigotry we witnessed in Charlottesville, VA. Our hearts and thoughts are with the individuals and organizations that continually stand up and fight for justice, truth and equality in our communities.

We at IIP are committed to the ideals of a fair and compassionate criminal justice system. While we cannot understand the hateful and racist beliefs expressed in Charlottesville, we understand one thing very clearly: These beliefs do not stop at the courthouse doors. They affect every level of our justice system from arrest to conviction. African Americans, for example, make up 13% of the U.S. population but they comprise almost 50% of the 2,000+ exonerations listed in the [National Registry of Exonerations](#).

Condoning views of racial superiority makes it only easier to wrongfully convict innocent people.

IIP is proud to be part of the University of Illinois System that, through a strong [statement](#) issued by U of I President Dr. Timothy Killeen and the chancellors of its three campuses, clearly rejected the horrible events that took place in Charlottesville, and the ideologies and groups that gave rise to them.

We continue to work toward the day that hateful ideologies and racial biases are not tolerated in our country and communities. As the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Stand AGAINST Bigotry and Hate ... Stand FOR Justice