

On 06 January 2021, we witnessed a serious infraction upon our Nation's Capitol. It was triggering, profoundly frightening, and a sobering reminder that democracy is fragile, and that we must constantly defend it. That it occurred while we are fighting for our patients' lives during a deadly pandemic is injury to grave insult. Many people may feel unprotected in light of the response to the actions witnessed. Please know that you are not alone; that your colleagues and teammates stand by democracy. We respect each and every team member and recognize that our organization only flourishes when each one of us is healthy and safe. We would like to emphasize that this is a safe space and that your rights and freedoms will be protected.

The actions of those who wish to threaten and intimidate our democracy, who wish to suppress justice and the fight for equity, have done nothing but validate the need for the changes we are striving for.

We will not go quietly into the night.

We will not let fear silence us.

We will recognize this event for what it is – a glaring reminder of exactly why we are volunteering our time, energy, sleep and sanity to the cause of Racial and Social Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

What transpired was not in isolation. We will not back down until we dismantle the systems in place that protected and encouraged the progression of these ideologies and actions and all other instances of structural violence against our communities.

Bring it on.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your colleagues, team members, or leadership if you need support during this time.

In Solidarity,

White Coats for Black and Indigenous Lives