

NCA Public Statement on the Insurrection of January 6, 2021

Consistent with its mission and with its longstanding commitments to free, ethical, and responsible communication in a democratic society, the National Communication Association (NCA) condemns the political rhetoric and communication that condoned and incited the political insurrection that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. This profound political act of breaking into and defacing the U.S. Capitol, and the accompanying bodily threat to members of the U.S. Congress and others on Capitol Hill, is of such historical and political significance as to require a wide-ranging response, not only from our political leaders but also from scholarly associations such as NCA.

NCA is guided by a mission that proclaims the association's commitment to "the importance of communication in public and private life, the application of competent communication to improve the quality of human life and relationships, and the use of knowledge about communication to solve human problems." Such communication must be free, ethical, and responsible. Such communication must be tethered to truth and accuracy. Such communication must not degrade individuals and humanity through distortion, intimidation, coercion, or violence, or through the expression of intolerance and hatred.

The political rhetoric and communication from some elected officials at national, state, and local levels, media pundits, and online commentators that followed the November U.S. presidential election and immediately preceded the events of January 6 violated these basic principles. This rhetoric and communication spread lies and misinformation about the conduct and results of the 2020 election and incited and condoned violent and seditious insurrection.

NCA especially condemns the implicit and overt expressions of white nationalism and white supremacy evident in the rhetoric and behaviors at the Capitol Hill insurrection of January 6. The powerful articulations of white supremacy that were enacted should not be viewed as isolated acts, but rather are endemic of a history of racial oppression, which includes the long-standing suppression of voting and of free and responsible democratic communication.

NCA rededicates itself fully to the values expressed in its [Credo for Free and Responsible Communication in a Democratic Society](#) and its [Resolution Condemning White Supremacy in Political Discourse](#). NCA is committed to the principle that such values must be linked to action and therefore will dedicate its expertise and resources to efforts that contribute to the pursuit of justice and the condemnation of communication that promotes such hatred, intolerance, and sedition. Following from our Credo, we believe that reason and justice can ultimately prevail, but also recognize that we must actively work to promote and preserve these values.