



Railroad Workers United

Solidarity • Unity • Democracy

The Rank & File in Action!

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RWU Resolution Against Fascism, Nazism & White Supremacy

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Whereas, fascist states throughout history have violently suppressed workers and their unions, sought to increase the exploitation of workers or even enslave them, stripped citizens of freedom of speech/freedom of movement, and sparked violent conflict domestically and abroad; and

Whereas, a basic hallmark of fascist regimes is the subjugation and/or outright elimination of unions and workers' movements, including the execution, torture, exile, and general persecution of union organizers, activists and leaders, and

Whereas, German Nazism grew out of the devastation of a WWI ravished country, a fascist and racist ideology that scapegoated Jews, Gypsies, foreigners, and unions for the country's economic woes which resulted in the murder of millions of civilians, and was defeated only at a horrific cost by the Allied forces in WWII - including the lives of thousands of Americans and Canadians - and only after 60 million had died in the war; and

Whereas, white supremacy - a fascist and racist ideology historically promoted by the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, apartheid South Africa, neo-confederate movements, and now by many newly formed alt-right groups - insists on the superiority of White Americans over other ethnicities which make up the country, advocating terrorism and genocide against them, the expulsion of undocumented immigrants, and the banning of others - based on religion and ethnicity - from immigrating to the U.S.; and

Whereas, historically, many rail companies benefitted greatly from these ideologies, making super profits by first exploiting slave labor and later Jim Crow in the South, Chinese immigrants in the west, and by keeping the railroad workforce divided by race, national origin, etc.; and

Whereas, the Ku Klux Klan has historically driven a wedge between workers, targeting not just Black workers but Jews, Catholics, Italians, Polish, Hungarians and numerous others, staging anti-union rallies and other actions, serving as employer vigilantes to violently break strikes and attacking social movements of poor and working-class people, all assisting the effort by the wealthy to keep workers divided and unions weak; and

Whereas, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka has officially condemned President Trump's remarks on the terrorist attack in Charlottesville, and several unions have taken a firm stand against these ideologies; and

Whereas, these ideologies are completely incompatible with the principles of building solidarity among all workers within the workplace, the local union, and the labor movement as a whole; and

Whereas, these ideologies are completely opposed to RWU's principles of building unity, solidarity and democracy among all railroad workers; and

Whereas, these anti-worker/anti-union ideologies are seeing a resurgence within the United States and seek to destroy the life, liberty and happiness of thousands of American railroad workers;

Therefore, be it Resolved that RWU condemns these ideologies, and any attempts by RWU members or others to spread fascist, Nazi or white supremacist ideas within our organization; and

Be it Further Resolved that RWU members are encouraged to discuss with fellow railroaders why any growth of these ideologies will harm all railroad workers, our unions and our society as a whole; and

Be it Finally Resolved that RWU encourages railroad workers to study the history of workers who have lived under fascism, Nazism and white supremacy to gain a deeper understanding of why these ideologies pose a grave threat to our livelihoods, our solidarity, our unity, and our freedom to organize.

Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee 10/21/17