



January 7, 2021

NFBPWC Executive Committee Statement Condemning the Violence in Washington D.C.

We live in a nation where we can exercise rights that many around the world would covet. In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guaranteed the right to vote for men, regardless of “race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” It took nearly 100 years of the suffrage movement to see passage of the 19th Amendment that would grant women the right to vote in 1920. Following this, in 1965, the Voting Rights Act was passed, making discriminatory voting practices illegal. In the United States of America, we have the right to register our choices for our country by voting.

Each vote, a personal choice, was registered and recorded in the recent elections – the outcome of which was certified in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States Congress. Sometimes our candidates win and sometimes our candidates lose. “We the People” are always the winners, benefiting from our Constitutional rights as Americans and the peaceful transfer of power.

January 6, 2021 was a day to celebrate the privilege of democracy, yet we witnessed the unprecedented assault of irresponsible and reckless behavior of extremists. While peaceful protest has been part of the fabric of our great nation, the unconscionable violence of the rioters yesterday is not a reflection of our democratic values. However, we should not allow these inexcusable actions to overshadow the victory of many – the victory of democracy. As citizens of this country, we have the awesome responsibility to act with respect toward one another, respect for our democratic system, and a respect for our representatives – even if the results do not always go in our favor.

Respect does not automatically indicate agreement, in fact, it infers that we value one another despite our differences. The Founding Fathers of this nation found strength in unity. Similarly, the suffragettes united in their fight for the right to vote. The hope that NFBPWC, as a nonpartisan organization, can set aside partisanship and be a beacon of light and unity for our communities is heartening after these events. We have a responsibility to serve as an example for the young women who will follow in our footsteps as responsible voters, leaders, and citizens who will continue the work of democracy.

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs condemns the violence that took place in our nation’s Capitol. We are heartbroken and shocked by the situation that erupted on January 6, 2021 and we grieve for the loss of life endured by these actions. As an organization, we have and will continue to support our flawed, but beautiful democracy for all citizens.

Sincerely,

The 2020-2022 Executive Committee
National Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs

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