



January 14, 2021

Dear Philanthropic Leader:

We are writing to ask you to publicly pledge not to do business with Fidelity or Fidelity Charitable as they are directly responsible for funneling funds to organizations that promote white supremacy and bigotry.

We all watched in horror last week as a group of armed white supremacists stormed the United States Capitol and attempted a coup in support of Donald Trump. As the story unfolds, it is becoming clear that many in the mob were prepared to kidnap, and even execute, members of Congress and the Vice President in a harrowing attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 Presidential Election.<sup>1</sup>

This deadly insurrectionist violence was incited by Donald Trump, numerous members of Congress, and networks of white supremacist and fascist organizations who spread misinformation and conspiracy theories about the election, upheld racist ideologies, and explicitly encouraged violence. Their actions were enabled by corporations like Fidelity.

Fidelity has played a critical role in resourcing white supremacist and fascist movements in the United States by enabling wealthy individuals to use Fidelity's donor-advised funds to make millions in anonymous donations to known hate groups.<sup>2</sup> The founder of the far-right group Turning Point USA bragged about sending 80 buses of Trump supporters to Washington, DC for the Capitol insurrection in a tweet he has since deleted.<sup>3</sup> According to tax filings from 2017 and 2018, Fidelity Charitable funneled more than \$700,000 in donations to Turning Point USA just in Trump's first two years in office. Money from Fidelity's donor-advised funds may have helped bring insurrectionists to the Capitol's doorstep. Once there, they stormed and desecrated the building in a violent attack that cost five lives.

Sadly, the January 6th attack could mark the beginning of a new era of bolder and more commonplace racist and antidemocratic violence in our politics. The seditionists who led last week's insurrection are actively planning further armed demonstrations at the U.S. Capitol and all 50 state capitols in the days leading up to the Presidential Inauguration next week.<sup>4</sup>

Yesterday, we were part of a group of 32 organizations that sent a letter to Fidelity CEO Abigail Johnson and Fidelity Charitable President Pamela Norley demanding they ban their donor-advised funds from making donations to white supremacists & organized bigots. That letter is attached and a copy can also be found at [StopFundingFascism.org](https://www.stopfundingfascism.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Godfrey, Elaine. "It Was Supposed to Be So Much Worse." *The Atlantic*. 09 Jan 2021.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2021/01/trump-rioters-wanted-more-violence-worse/617614>.

<sup>2</sup> Kotch, Alex. "America's Biggest Charities Are Funneling Millions to Hate Groups From Anonymous Donors." *Sludge*. 19 Feb 2019. <https://readsludge.com/2019/02/19/americas-biggest-charities-are-funneling-millions-to-hate-groups-from-anonymous-donors>.

<sup>3</sup> Thalen, Mikael. "Charlie Kirk deleted tweet saying he sent '80+ buses full of patriots' to D.C." *Daily Dot*. 10 Jan 2021. <https://www.dailydot.com/debug/charlie-kirk-delete-tweet-buses-capitol>.

<sup>4</sup> Cohen, Zachary and Whitney Wild. "FBI warns 'armed protests' being planned at all 50 state capitols and in Washington DC." *CNN*. 12 Jan 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/11/politics/fbi-bulletin-armed-protests-state-us-capitol/index.html>.

As leaders in philanthropy, you understand that bigotry and inciting violence is not charitable. We call on you to publicly pledge not to use Fidelity as an asset manager for your endowment or as a retirement plan provider for your employees and not to use Fidelity Charitable's donor-advised funds for charitable donations until they ban their donor-advised funds from making donations to organizations that promote white supremacy and bigotry. Due to the dire urgency of the situation, we request your response by the close of business on Friday, January 15th. Please direct your response and any questions to Saqib Bhatti from the Action Center on Race and the Economy, at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Action Center on Race and the Economy  
Asian American Resource Workshop  
Community Labor United  
Muslim Justice League  
Resource Generation  
Unmasking Fidelity Coalition