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Black Psychologists and Activists Call for Congressional Hearings on the Effects of the Lie of Black Inferiority

Pointing to the verdict in the Jordan Davis case and widespread concern about the continued devaluing of the lives of Black children, the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi) and Community Healing Network, Inc. (CHN) today called on the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to schedule public hearings on the continuing effects of the lie of Black inferiority and ways to eradicate it.

In a letter to Caucus Chairwoman, Marcia L. Fudge, CHN and ABPsi noted that this week, on February 20, the European Parliament is holding a [hearing](#) on “Afrophobia,” and urged the CBC to hold similar proceedings. CHN and ABPsi said that the use of the term “Afrophobia” draws attention to the “fear, hostility, and discrimination that are all too often directed at people of African descent. In calling for Congressional hearings on the present-day effects of the lie of Black inferiority, we seek to illuminate the underlying causes of Afrophobia.”

CHN and ABPsi called for an immediate scheduling of hearings and offered to help the CBC by identifying experts and resources.

The letter to the CBC is an outgrowth of a collaboration between CHN and ABPsi that is engaging increasing numbers of Black mental health professionals and other activists to help Black people overcome the lie of Black inferiority and the emotional legacies of enslavement and racism.

According to Enola Aird, president of CHN, “negative stereotypes, based on the lie of Black inferiority, are literally killing Black children, and we must address the root causes of these tragedies.”

Taasogle Daryl Rowe, Ph.D., president of ABPsi, said, “for nearly 400 years, the world has been fed toxic lies about people of African ancestry and they continue to exact a heavy toll on Black people in every conceivable way. It is time to stop repeating them to ourselves, to each other and letting others teach them as truth.”

ABPsi past president, Cheryl Tawede Grills, Ph.D., said “these hearings would be especially timely given the racial injustices that continue to unfold in the United States, unabated even by the passage of time and the presence of a Black president.”

The letter to the CBC is a key part of a public awareness initiative launched by CHN this month called *Celebrating Our History, Transforming Our Present, and Taking Control of Our Destiny*--to make the case that emotional emancipation is the key to transforming Black communities.

About ABPsi—ABPsi is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. As a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, ABPsi seeks to promote and advance the profession of African psychology, influence and effect social change, and develop programs that address and work to alleviate problems of Black communities and other ethnic groups. www.abpsi.org

About CHN—A 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, CHN is working to build a global grassroots movement for the emotional emancipation of Black people. Its aim is to engage a critical mass of Black people in the movement by the year 2019, the 400th anniversary of the forced arrival of Africans at Jamestown colony. www.CommunityHealingNet.org