

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 6/18/2015 11:35:58 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Government Response to Charleston Shootings

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Message:
Dear Governor Haley:

I join my fellow South Carolinians in grieving the recent church shooting in Charleston. It is truly a sad day for our state and for our nation.

Now is the time for the government of South Carolina to take action to help prevent future violence. Now is the time for our state's representatives to take a public stand against hate crimes and against violence.

Please begin by removing the Confederate flag from our State House. This symbol sends the wrong message about what South Carolina values. I am appalled that we continue to fly a flag that represents a period of our history marked by slavery. For the majority of people, this symbol continues to reflect white supremacy and hate crimes, and thus should be removed immediately from any governmental property.

Also, please take this occasion to re-examine South Carolina's gun policies. We need to implement stronger policies aimed at reducing the number of gun deaths in our state. We must put stronger barriers in place to obtaining fire arms, and help reduce the "culture of violence" that is so prevalent in our region.

As a Baptist minister and chaplain, as a wife, sister, and daughter, and as a white person who has grown up in a racist country and who is trying to do and be better, I implore the state government to act now to end hate crimes and gun violence.

Thank you for representing my interests and opinions. I hope what happened in Charleston will never happen again, and that South Carolina's government can take this occasion to act.

Sincerely,

Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper