

Stevenson University
102 Campus Circle
Owings Mills, MD 21117

November 16, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mrs. Haley,

On June 17th, 2015, the lives of nine innocent African-American citizens were taken in church in Charleston, South Carolina. After this tragic incident, the confederate flag was raised in front of the site of the incident. Following this event, you signed a bill calling for the removal of the Confederate Flag on the capital grounds of South Carolina.

It is said that America is one of the greatest countries to live in. "Land of the free, home of the brave," is the famous quote that is highly associated with this country. Why then, do many citizens feel anything but free? For many citizens, this feeling of fear and captivity can be attributed to a controversial symbol, the confederate flag. The year is 2015, and the confederate flag is presently being flown with pride, regardless of the feelings of threat it stimulates in many citizens, particularly African-American citizens. While it is argued that the confederate flag is not an offensive symbol and simply represents heritage, this argument does not fully account for the iniquitous history that is associated with it.

The argument that the confederate flag has never represented hate or discrimination is invalid. William T. Thompson, creator of the confederate flag, clearly expressed that the confederate flag represents the superiority of the white race over African-Americans. This is one of the multiple causes that many Americans view the confederate flag as a hate symbol. With the original meaning of the flag in mind, many have proposed that it is no longer accurate, its' meaning has change. This idea of reclamation is problematic because at its' best, the confederate flag represents treason and death. Death because many confederate soldiers lost their lives during the Civil War, and treason because the confederate flag was the flag of the Confederate States of America, the states that seceded from the United States of America. At its' worst, the confederate flag represents racism and discrimination. It is for this reason that the confederate flag should not be flown. A nation-wide law should be devised, stating that the use of the confederate flag for non-education purposes is illegal.

Works Cited

Henderson, Nia-Malika. "Nikki Haley seizes the political moment amidst Confederate flag debate." www.cnn.com. 11 July 2015. 13 November 2015.

Rmuse. "Confederate Flag Designer Said It is a Symbol of the White Supremacy – Not Southern Heritage." www.politicsusa.com. 3 July 2015. 13 November 2015.