

**Resolution Denouncing the Systemic Racism that Motivated  
the South Carolina Shootings**

Whereas the alleged perpetrator of the fatal shootings at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, South Carolina, on the evening of Wednesday, June 17, 2015, has openly claimed to having political, racially motivated aims for his act of violence;

Whereas this act of racially motivated violence is directly linked to the systemic privileging of particular lives, experiences, and histories over others;

Whereas this systemic privileging is racially motivated in that, in simple terms, this system disproportionately benefits persons of European descent and disadvantages persons of color;

Whereas this systemic privileging is endemic and often goes unnoticed and unremarked;

Whereas our libraries, library users, library workers, other institutions, and our communities are severely affected by this systemic privileging;

Whereas the death of Cynthia G. Hurd, manager of the St. Andrews Regional Library branch of the Charleston County Public Library system (CCPL), who was among the nine killed, exemplifies the undeniable connections between our profession, our professional values, our communities, and this systemic privileging; and

Whereas librarians, as full-fledged members of our respective communities, have, as a profession, long held and stated that we value democracy, diversity, the public good, and social responsibility (ALA policy, B.1.1); now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. denounces racially and politically motivated violence as exemplified by the shootings at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, South Carolina, on the evening of Wednesday, June 17, 2015;
2. recognizes the hidden, endemic, and pervasive nature of systemic racism in American culture;
3. will strengthen and prioritize its own efforts to support diversity and foster cultural understanding and humility within our profession; and
4. will work with other professional associations to enable library staff and information organizations to expand our collective understanding of the hidden, systemic nature of racism in American culture and its potential for violence.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Sunday, June 28, 2015, in San Francisco, California



Keith Michael Fiels  
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council