

Venceremos Speech on Race

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Thank you so much for being here tonight. With the pain so many are experiencing – from the DACA repeal to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, it's challenging to think of celebrating.

But coming together reaffirms our humanity and celebrating is an act of Resistance.

There is no one in this room who hasn't woken up flattened in this year. The hate and racism that many people have experienced their whole lives and throughout history has been supersized. We are in the fight of our lives. But to say that this hate is new is coming from a place of privilege.

While we find ourselves in a particularly challenging time, we know that this crisis did not **begin** on November 8th, and it will not **end** with Trump. Our **economy** was built on the backs of people of color: from **stealing** Native land, to **enslaving** and **incarcerating** black lives, to **exploiting** immigrant workers. White supremacy continues to permeate our economy and our democracy today.

When faced with Neo-Nazis carrying torches...it's easy to say that's not me. **But it is me.** As a beneficiary of white supremacy, I have to continually listen, learn, and address my own racism and privilege to become a better ally.

White supremacy is not just the fringe. White supremacy is a system of **power** that values some lives over others. White supremacy is about **keeping** people of color in poverty: **beaten** down by state sanctioned violence, and **locked** out of real democracy.

White supremacy is a system that throws away not only 800,000 DREAMers, but **11 million undocumented immigrants**...It locks up **one million Black folks** behind bars....and ignores countless individuals who don't have enough to put food on the table or keep a roof over their head.

Taking down and undoing the deep-seated racism in ourselves and our economy is a lifelong, multigenerational fight.

This moment calls on us to be **bolder** and more **transformational**. We cannot wait to have a world worthy of the beloved community to BE the beloved community that we are.

Beyond any policy or any agreement that we could win, we **fight** for the **right to belong**. At the very core of human nature, we all want to be **valued**, to feel at **home**, and to have **community**.

In our vision, our jobs, homes, schools, neighborhoods are our sanctuaries. Places where everyone's work and contribution is valued. Places where we come together to **eat**. to **love**. and to **share** in life's celebrations and heartaches. For ALL people, not just for those deemed worthy.

And **until** that vision is real, we will **hold** each other. We will **stand** together. We will **commit** to organizing that transforms **each of us** as it does the systems in which we work.

Like generations before us, we shall overcome the current attacks on our communities. Venceremos! - We will win!