Dear NWSA Community,

Like many of you, I watched the events unfold in Washington, DC, with great concern but with neither surprise nor shock. At this critical moment in American herstory—as we both condemn the attempted coup at the Capitol by racist white supremacists who, emboldened by the president, tried to disrupt the certification of the electoral college and we celebrate the historic Senate victories of Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossof—I am reminded that the work that we are doing to radically transform this country is needed more now than ever before. For the past four years, we have been engaged in one of the most critical political fights in our lifetime, working to take back our power and hold our ground in a country committed to finding ways to silence, disenfranchise, terrorize, and oppress us. Additionally, for the last year, we have been engaged in a struggle to survive and thrive within a global pandemic that is disproportionately impacting Black and Brown communities. We are in the midst of a twindemic of massive proportions, but we are still here, and we are still fighting. We hold fast to our voices, our work, ourselves, and each other. We will survive these moments that may take our breath away but will never take our tongues.

We want to add our voice to the growing chorus speaking out against what happened at the Capitol on January 6th and who are now calling on Vice-President Mike Pence and Speaker Nancy Pelosi to immediately act to remove Donald Trump from a position of power and authority. Even though Trump has less than two weeks to go, I understand that a person is never more dangerous than in the final moments when they believe they are losing everything that rightfully belongs to them.

Growing up as the daughter of a Southern Black Baptist minister, I was often told whenever I complained that first we take a moment to reflect, and then we fight. NWSA family, I believe that we have been reflecting for the past year, and it is time for us to fight, to use our collective voices to be the change that we believe needs to happen in this country. I invite you to join us in our fight, as we stand here at the dawn of a new day, committed to holding our politicians accountable; to doing all that we can to be a part of the movement that is happening across this country; and, to continue to write, publish, speak, fight, organize, and push back, with everything we have, for as long as we can.

Bending Toward Social Justice,
Karsonya Wise Whitehead, Ph.D., NWSA President
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