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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

## **The Events of January 6, 2021**

Once again, the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) is challenged to issue a statement to state the obvious.

What happened yesterday to our republic should have never happened. Many of the CWLA staff, over the years, have spent times in what are truly the hallowed halls of Congress—those that were invaded yesterday. We always have entered with the respect and reverence that 250 years of history requires. In those offices, we have had many debates and discussions with people from all parties who sometimes agree with us and frequently do not. No matter what, we respect and honor that process—and we will continue to do so.

There are parts of the U.S. Capitol Building that still bear some residual marks from the War of 1812 when the British invaded the Capitol of a new republic in an attempt to burn it down—to burn us down. Now it bears the marks of the 2021 insurrection.

For more than 100 years, CWLA has worked hand in hand with our member organizations across this nation to create a better world for children and families. We have never been more challenged to carry out this mission as families and communities are devastated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and by the negative images they witnessed yesterday. We are especially alarmed by the undercurrent of racism that has become evident in both the pandemic and through yesterday's events. We pledge to redouble our efforts to make this a better country for all children and families.

For those of our members who started out with sympathy to yesterday's protests or know people who do: We know you know that violence is never justified, even when elections and debates turn away from your point of view. Abraham Lincoln once said, "Among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet."

We have all just lived, and will continue to live, through the greatest pandemic of the last 100 years. Now we have lived through another historic tragedy that stains our land. May God bless us and help us to resolve that this will never happen again.

*Christine James Brown*

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