

January 6, 2020

Dear Habitat leaders,

In America, we celebrate what John Adams called “A government of laws and not of men.” We celebrate our rights to peaceably assemble and say what’s on our minds. We defend those rights, even when exercised by those we disagree with.

What we’ve seen in our nation’s capital today is not the exercise of those rights. What we’ve seen instead was violent, mob rule, targeted at the very beating heart of our democracy — the people elected to carry our voices and the sacred halls that house the people’s branch of our government.

My grandmother, Millicent Fenwick, served our nation in that building for eight years. Walter Cronkite once called her the “conscience of Congress” for always standing for her virtuous principles. She was fiercely committed to justice and improving conditions for others. And she loved our country.

She would be ashamed by what happened in the Capitol today.

I am ashamed, and I am sad. But I also need to be hopeful. And I draw on you, my Habitat family, for that hope.

Habitat for Humanity builds community around the world. We bring people together, crossing lines of race, class, nationality and religion. We share Dr. King’s vision of building a Beloved Community – a place that doesn’t eliminate our differences, but celebrates them, allows for tension undergirded by love and leads to transformation.

Tonight, I am praying for our leaders to find the judgment and wisdom they need to reset our course and join that most important work. *Ecclesiastes* tells us that there is a season for everything. Now is our time to heal.

Blessings,



Jonathan T.M. Reckford