



# Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #37

### Denouncing White Supremacist Paraphernalia at County Fairs

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4 ABSTRACT: This resolution denounces the presence of Confederate imagery at all state-funded,  
5 Cornell-affiliated fairs and calls upon Cornell University to support the efforts of “Fair for All”  
6 organizers as well as utilize all powers at its disposal to ensure the removal of white supremacist  
7 paraphernalia at county fairs across New York State.  
8

9 **Sponsored by: Christopher Hanna '19, Joe Anderson '20**

10  
11 **Whereas**, Cornell University, as well as Cornell’s local Cooperative Extension offices, provide crucial  
12 programming and logistical support to county fairs across New York State (NYS);  
13

14 **Whereas**, these include fairs where racist merchandise is both prominently displayed and for sale;  
15

16 **Whereas**, the presence and sale of Confederate flags and other white supremacist paraphernalia foster  
17 climates of hostility and danger for people of color;  
18

19 **Whereas**, Confederate imagery, in particular, glorifies genocide, slavery, and racial subjugation and thus  
20 lacks a place in an inclusive public sphere;  
21

22 **Whereas**, county fairs hold the right to forbid vendors for selling items they deem inappropriate (e.g.  
23 alcohol, pornography), and thus reserve the right to forbid racist items;  
24

25 **Whereas**, for two years Delaware County-based New Yorkers belonging to the “Fair for All” organizing  
26 team have worked to ensure that all state-funded, Cornell-affiliated fairs ban the sale of white  
27 supremacist products;  
28

29 **Whereas**, the emergence of far-right movements, including ones that use the Confederate flag as a proxy  
30 to assert white power, has coincided with an uptick in racist and antisemitic hate crimes on  
31 Cornell’s campus;  
32

33 **Whereas**, the merchandise issue was first raised in the campus community by a July 2018 Cornell Daily  
34 Sun letter that powerfully stated: “If the university has even a speck of integrity during this  
35 political moment of intensified bigotry, it will publicly oppose the sale and display of racist  
36 symbols at county fairs affiliated with CCE, 4-H and Cornell at large.”  
37

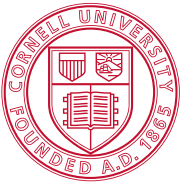
38 **Whereas**, subsequent talks among student organizers and administrators yielded a soft commitment  
39 from the latter to working with its cooperative extensions to develop and implement anti-racist  
40 education in NYS’s communities, particularly those where neo-Confederate sentiments have  
41 been most popularized;  
42

43 **Whereas**, this tentative willingness is necessary but insufficient in demonstrating the university’s  
44 opposition to white supremacy, and ought to be accompanied by concrete action against racist  
45 profiteering at fairs that boast Cornell’s name on them;



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- 46 **Whereas**, Cornell has insisted that it has no sway over the cooperative extensions that bear its name  
47 and whose educational programs it supports;  
48
- 49 **Whereas**, Cornell in fact provides educational programming for thousands of 4H youth throughout the  
50 state, and encourages them to attend county fairs where items that promote hate are openly sold  
51 and displayed;  
52
- 53 **Whereas**, New York's new chief legal officer, Attorney General, Letitia James, and New York's  
54 Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, Richard Ball, have firmly stated their opposition to  
55 the sale of Confederate flag items at NY's county fairs, in response to Fair for All's campaign;  
56
- 57 **Whereas**, meanwhile President Pollack has steadfastly refused Fair for All's repeated requests to use her  
58 power to urge local fair boards to bar the sale of Confederate flags at their fairs;  
59
- 60 **Whereas**, President Pollack's specious First Amendment argument in defense of this disappointing  
61 stance defies the absolute necessity of universities taking proactive anti-racist action to combat  
62 the rising tide of fascist politics in the U.S. and globally;  
63
- 64 **Whereas**, as one of Upstate New York largest institutions — with cooperative extensions in dozens of  
65 counties and an endowment that makes it the 18th wealthiest university in the world — Cornell  
66 University holds major sway in public life and statewide politics;  
67
- 68 **Whereas**, Cornell has openly declared its commitment to, “build a culture that values transparency,  
69 accountability, and communication around issues of diversity and inclusion; develop visible  
70 institutional statements and symbols of our priorities, and policies that are well-aligned with  
71 them; partner with the surrounding community on issues of diversity and inclusion,”  
72
- 73 **Whereas**, Cornell's commitment to diversity and inclusion demands that it help secure an anti-racist  
74 victory for the people of New York by supporting Fair for All's efforts;  
75
- 76 **Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University's administration provide a brief plan on how it intends  
77 to activate anti-racist education efforts in NYS to the Student Assembly by the end of month  
78 September 2019 following President Pollack's receipt of this resolution;  
79
- 80 **Be it further resolved**, that President Pollack ought to join Commissioner Ball and AG James in  
81 publicly calling on county fairs to stop selling these hateful items;  
82
- 83 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University publicly utilize all other powers at its disposal to ensure  
84 all county fair boards in NYS take such action;  
85
- 86 **Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University's cooperative extensions stop participating in county  
87 fairs that refuse to ban white supremacist paraphernalia;  
88
- 89 **Be it finally resolved**, that the Dean of Students and Vice Provost for University Relations commit to  
90 providing Cornell student organizers from Fair for All with timely  
91 updates on its progress towards these goals.



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93	<b>Respectfully Submitted,</b>
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**Cornell University**  
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138 (Reviewed by: Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 11-0-6, 04/16/2019)