



# La Voz de Esperanza

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- We advocate for a wide variety of social,  
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- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not  
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## La Voz de Esperanza

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Articles due by the 8th of each month

## Policy Statements

\* We ask that articles be visionary,  
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Submissions must be literate & critical;  
not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or  
oppressive & may be edited for length.

\* All letters in response to Esperanza  
activities or articles in La Voz will be  
considered for publication. Letters with  
intent to slander individuals or groups will  
not be published. Letters with intent to slander  
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## Guest Editorial

### Calling People “Racists” Is Not Helpful

—by Sara De Turk

Over the week following Donald Trump’s reported reference to Africa and Haiti as “shitholes,” news outlets such as the New York Times have obsessed about whether or not he is “a racist.” This has bothered me for multiple reasons. On a tactical level (and this may be the only point on which I agree with Steve Bannon), focusing on whether the president is a racist is a losing proposition for the left. For one thing, a large swath of the U.S. public wants to avoid discussions of identity politics. Deliberations about a racist personality, moreover, distract us from action on policy. More importantly, though, the term “racist,” when used as a noun to describe some people and differentiate them from those of us who are good and “nonracist,” is misleading.

Racism is an ideology that permeates our society; few of us are immune from it. I have spent my adult life working to purge myself of racist beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors, but I know that I am not cured. Accusing people of being “racists” is an exercise in “black-and-white” (no pun intended) thinking which exonerates those of us who strive for racial equality and reserves blame for white supremacists and other bogeymen.

Rather than seeking to assign blanket condemnation, we should be working to root out our own racist language, biases, assumptions, and practices, and to point out those of our families, friends, colleagues, students, and politicians. Then change them. Communicate with our elected representatives about policy priorities. And quit name-calling.



Opinion | OP-ED Columnist  
Charles M. Blow  
New York Times, Jan. 14, 2018

**Editor’s Note:** After a year of being battered by the antics of the White House and Congress, we must challenge ourselves to look a little deeper and ask: How did we get here? First, it’s important that we become fully aware of the U.S.’s role in creating so-called “s-hole countries” throughout history and even now. Second, we must not buy into the myth of “America, the great” because the reality is that we’ve been bullies, thieves, liars and murderers since the U.S. was “founded” on genocide, land grabs and the deep-seeded belief that certain people are meant to be privileged while others are cast as “subhuman.”

As the year progresses, we must be aware that our news outlets are easily led astray to cover the devious tricks of this administration that wants to divert our attention from what is actually going on as they put into place—people, policies and laws—that threaten our quality of life on ALL levels for years to come. I invite Voz readers to join the writers of this issue in enlightening our gente about the issues at hand—globally and locally—and send in your writings to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org). We are all part of the same community who deserve a government that represents and protects all people.

Finally, we dedicate this issue of La Voz to Jane Tuck, a life-long peacemaker and fellow elder activist of our community, who passed into spirit in December, 2017. Que en paz descanse, Jane. —Gloria A. Ramírez, editor

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**VOZ VISION STATEMENT:** La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.