

# AL NAACP NEWS

## Alabama State Conference National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Benard Simelton, President  
Alabama State Conference  
Phone: 256-444-1300  
Cell: 256-426-6406  
[benard.simelton@alnaacp.org](mailto:benard.simelton@alnaacp.org)  
[info@alnaacp.org](mailto:info@alnaacp.org)



Minister Patricia Mokolo, Chair  
Communications Committee  
Alabama State Conference  
Phone: 205-632-0580  
[Patricia.mokolo@alnaacp.org](mailto:Patricia.mokolo@alnaacp.org)  
[www.alnaacp.org](http://www.alnaacp.org)

February 2, 2019  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ALABAMA NAACP CALLS ON VIRGINIA GOVERNOR TO RESIGN

The Alabama State Conference of the NAACP joins with our National NAACP Office in calling on Ralph Northam, Governor of Virginia to resign as the leader of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are deeply disturbed that his leadership doesn't fully understand that his actions are hurtful to people of color who have endured systemic racism for years in this country.

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam was photographed in 1984 in black face or KKK hooded outfit, in which he initially admitted one of the two persons in the photograph was him. He did not say which one was him. He then apologized. Neither person photographed is better than the other. Several hours after his apology, Governor Northam recanted his admission statement and said it was not him in the racist photo. He did elaborate to say he had dressed in black face at a different engagement.

As a leader and as a human being, we must look deep inside of ourselves and ask the question, what values do I as a person hold dear? Do I hold onto racists ideas and values that prohibit other races from advancing in America? Black face is never ok. It was not ok in 1984 and it is not ok in 2019.

Historically black face and KKK dress was used to intimidate and make fun of African Americans. The KKK was and still is an organization today used to intimidate, kill, hang, rape and harass African Americans. In order for American cities, states and the United States of America to heal and move forward, we must end deeply rooted feelings of racism about African Americans and begin to have a dialogue on race relations.

An apology is one thing, but to move the Commonwealth of Virginia and the country forward, there is only one solution. Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia must resign his post. The people of Virginia deserve much better leadership than this.

Benard Simelton

For additional information contact Patricia Mokolo, Alabama NAACP Communications Chair at  
205.632.0580 [patricia@mokolo.solutions](mailto:patricia@mokolo.solutions).

###

Post Office Box 866

Athens, Alabama 35612