

Statement of Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D for the Hearing on “The Rise in Violence Against Minority Institutions,” taking place on Thursday February 17, 2022, under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security (Committee on the Judiciary):

I prayed for our beloved HBCUs this past week. However, as a proud alum – twice – of North Carolina A&T State University; as a former professor at Bennett College; and as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, I know for a fact HBCUs can overcome any challenge. However, HBCUs shouldn't have to face the violence and terror my generation experienced during segregation. Terrorism and racism have no place on college campuses – or anywhere else.

I also want to take this opportunity to address the perpetrators of these crimes. Just as I have prayed for our HBCUs, I am praying for you. I am praying that you learn from the pain you've caused. I am praying that the hate that inspired these acts leaves your heart forever. Like many others around the world, I owe our HBCUs a debt that can never be repaid. That is why I continue to pray for our institutions, and the souls of those who cannot or will not honor them.

In the wake of more threats levied against Spelman College, Howard University, and Winston-Salem State University in the past weeks, our nation is being forced to once again, reckon with our history of racism and discrimination. Now is the time to respond as a nation, as a Congress, and as individuals: such threats of violence must be stopped.