

SARTAC Zoom Meetings held on January 7th and 11th.

Bob: What the president did is wrong. I am sad that people died. I am glad the rioters were not successful. As a person with a disability, I think we need to have a statement that says we do not like the fact that this happened. People with disabilities are part of society and we are here as advocates for our rights.

Sophia (ally): Thank you so much for leading this conversation. Very helpful. I hope SABE does come out with a statement. This is an important moment in our history as a country.

Max and Topper sorted the comments into these 8 categories or general topics people seemed to be talking about:

1. Comments About What Happened In DC on January 6th
2. Comments From People Who Support Trump
3. Comments About The Election And What Congress Did
4. The Need To Speak Up
5. Comparing Different Types Of Protests
6. Where Do We Go From Here And How Do We Do It?
7. The Need To Focus On People With Disabilities
8. Where Do We Go From Here?

Comments About What Happened In DC on January 6th

Thelma: I am from Washington DC. It is so bad down here that the mayor put in an emergency curfew. You have to be in from 6pm until 6am. Luckily, my health aide came here and could keep assisting people who need help.

Bill: I heard that people were killed yesterday, and I agree that the FBI should be investigating all of that.

Shannon: There were officers in the Capitol, but the Trump protesters kept walking around the Capitol. I am glad that Vice President Pence brought in more officers to deal with this incident.

Danielle: I can't believe that a sitting President would incite such violence and vitriol against his own country. The 25 Amendment needs to be invoked and he needs to be removed from office.

Ed: I am hearing in the news that other countries think this is a mockery of democratic principles. "Donald Trump caused this riot. This is very serious. I think Trump should be impeached and this is nothing short of high treason."

Johnnie: We don't know what all the things Trump did leading up to the capital. Come on now for four or five people died, that's murder. That's not just inciting violence. Come on, that's a slap in the face of justice. This situation is not over: it just started.

Mikayla: This didn't have to become violent. I understand that they were upset about the results of the election, but Americans do not act like this destroying federal buildings to change the election results. It gives me chills and reminds me of mass shootings that have happened across our country. I hope Americans calm down and act civil to one another.

Kile: I am also concerned about people being crowded together and now spreading the virus when they return to their home states.

Joseph - I am sad for what this country has come too. I do think that people need to be accountable for their crimes. It could be the people that are actually committing the crimes. Based on what I've seen, Trump did not back down when people were saying fight for Trump, fight for Trump.

I don't know if he really honestly was trying to instigate it or not instigate it. He did make a false pretense when he said I'll be there joining right with you. And then he wasn't there. So, he kind of lied to his supporters. I do think Trump should be accountable for what happened.

Personally, I am for Joe. Hopefully, the new administration that's coming in will be able to clean up the act that was put on this nation. I know this is going to be something for the history books and we have to move forward and be stronger as a nation.

Levi: There were 1 or 2 Senator who also were involved.

Liz: I am sad for our country; we are better than this. Everyone has a right to their opinion and that includes the President. And he can be angry. But he can't tell people. Let's go to the Capitol. Let's do it. Let's take back this country. I am really angry. It is saying that we as Americans aren't good enough if we say Biden won the election. I'm angry. I'm angry that I'm the person in the White House, how can I look up to someone like that who did what he did on January 6th. I am sorry but I cannot look up to him anymore.

Darren: This is what I got to say. Even the Republicans are looking at what happened last week. When you run and you represent people of our nation you should be doing the right thing. Trump has said things and made false statements about the election. And I know a lot of people say, "the devil makes me do it." But people did what they did it on their own accord. We see what they did. But Trump should have thought about what he said. People died in that in that incident.

Robert & Keith: Anyone who destroys property should be held accountable. I protest for my rights and the rights of the disabled

David: I hope for the good of our country, our president needs to be impeached so that the country is protected, that he can't run again in the future.

Joy: Trump is destroying the economy. We need our economy back as soon as possible. But I'm glad our governor in NY was talking about Trump in State of State Address today.

Melody: When I saw what happened on Wednesday at the Capitol, my heart was heavy. I think that what Trump did in 4 years, it was not good, in my opinion. In my mind, what happened on Wednesday was straight up wrong.

Comments From People Who Support Trump

Ross: The way that I look at it is he didn't even know the people would be lining up to take over the Capitol. And how would he have had the time to plan these things? Well, most of these riots started in bigger cities on other issues, and I will stop there.

Andy: Trump has gotten some things right and then he does do some things wrong. Let's look at the right things. Let's not look at the bad things. Why is he going to get impeached? OK, let it go. We need to go on to the new president. Enough is enough. All right.

Hope: Why are we picking on the president who was trying so hard to make our nation better for us to live in.

Comments About The Election And What Congress Did

Amanda - I don't like how Trump was lying to people about who won the election and not telling the truth.

Steve: As a poll inspector, it is really wrong. Protestors should not be trying to change the election results. Let the people in the Senate do their job. It's not appropriate at all to stop the proceedings of Congress counting the results of the votes. I have never seen this happen in our state house in Albany so why are they trying to do it there.

Francesco: Voting is a right for us. It is a real privilege that we have this opportunity.

Kevin: I fight for individuals with developmental disabilities and make sure they get everything they need. I think the Senate and Representatives can do better. Instead of trying to help us with funding in a way that we need it, yesterday Congress was spending their time on something they are not supposed to be fighting about.

Kile: Everything that happened yesterday, I just feel that basically it shouldn't have happened because there was really nothing that got resolved from this protest. The facts are that on January 20 we will have a new President. The need to focus on people with disabilities.

Katie - Trump needs to realize that he lost the election and also his supporters need to realize that he lost. Here in Arizona, people need to realize that he lost. They still have signs up supporting Trump. People need to stop saying the election was illegal because it was NOT illegal. Joe Biden won.

David: I think as far as voting issues, the Trump rallies confused a lot of people. A lot of people don't know why there were so many recounts. Everyone's is in a state of confusion. They don't know if their votes are counted or not. We will really have to encourage people to vote again.

Thalia: You have to accept if someone you don't like wins an election. Just like if you run for something and you have to accept things if you don't win yourself. In

history the exiting President when losing congratulates the new President! I am very disappointed! This is unbelievable!

Makaila: This is the first time in American history since I started voting that people were fighting over who won the presidency. This is the first time I've seen it in my own eyes. And I'm sick and tired of fighting back and forth. We are American people we need to be treated equally. We need to go with the results from the states no matter who won as president.

David: Donald Trump lost the election, and he has to go. Joe Biden won, and he is going to be the number one party in America

Teresa: The voter project would like to know if you have any statements about people who have died for the right to vote. That is true in this country.

The counting of the votes went fairly smoothly, even though every election there are changes in laws and how they do things. I was just wondering if people would like to make some recommendations or add to the statements about how voting was used to incite this this violence. That would be helpful to the Good Voter Project, because we're on national committees and we could relate that information to them from you guys directly about how you felt about voting being used this way and talked about this way and how it is being used as a confusing factor for them, for the country.

The Need To Speak Up

Bill – I agree people with disabilities should speak out whenever they are in trouble.

Danny Hoover: We make good trouble down here in Georgia. Many civil rights movements have started here and grown here. We are carrying on that tradition with Uniting For Change, our grassroots self-advocacy group.

Francesco - I encourage people to be who they are and have your voice be heard. If you don't have your voice heard you are not going to get anywhere. And if they hear you out and they do not do anything - continue speaking up and eventually they will get it. I think as a country we should be looking at issues facing people with disabilities and LGBTQ issues. Because our voices are not always heard on the news. Like stories about LGBTQ people getting married or stories about people with disabilities advocating for what they believe in. We are not hearing

enough of these stories. We need to ask what else can we do as a country to make that happen!

Comparing Different Types Of Protests

Yesterday we saw a grassroots movement that was both violent and non-violent. It was also clear that people came to the Capitol to be violent. The disability rights movement does use non-violent protest as a way to make change in our country. Sometimes we do get arrested. Our actions are non-violent.

Cheri: Within the disability civil rights movements, a lot of us work from the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. which was nonviolent civil disobedience. And so that would have never happened during a disability rights protest.”

Michael: Protests can sometimes turn into problems. I have been part of ADAPT protests, but they never were violent. We get loud and proud and do civil disobedience, but we are not violent

Daniel: When people with disabilities fought for their medical rights they got arrested and the people who broke into Congress just got a slap on the wrist.

Tracy: I feel that other groups have protested for other things. And the police have reacted much more harshly to them. And the police did not react as harshly yesterday. I think this is wrong and it should not have gone on allowing them to get into the Capitol and destroy things and tearing up things. I think if the protesters were people with disabilities or people of color we would have been stopped. Every group of protesters should be treated the same.

Jessica: Trump failed to lead by example. As self-advocate leaders we know the importance of leading by example. And in the self-advocacy movement we teach to speak up for your voice to be heard. Yesterday people went beyond that and were violent.

Johnnie: They say Trump supporters are the silent majority. First off they're not silent. But the real silent majority, it's people with disabilities and Latinos. Together we are very fast becoming the majority. It is about time for us to start realizing that and start utilizing that power before it's gone.

If those in power feel threatened, the cops will use brutality and any other measure to silence the dissent, while if the power does not feel threatened, the

voices are allowed. The power did not feel threatened by the people doing the riots in Capitol Hill, but the power did feel threatened by MLK, Black Lives Matter, Occupy Wall Street, etc.

Max: One thing that I have picked up from the events that happened last Wednesday, is how different it looked from protests involving Black Lives Matter. The police responded with heavy numbers for protests against the killing of George Floyd. The police use more force and brutality against Black Lives Matter protesters. It seemed like the police were less on the harsh side for the Capitol rioters. They actually let them into the Capitol building. Their behavior is quite the opposite during Black Lives Matter protests. I've seen police aggressively drag Black Lives Matter protesters out of federal building, as well as incidents where police are very brutal and hurt Non-violent protesters that are exercising their right to protest peacefully.

Teresa: I did see protesters being treated differently based on the color of their skin.

Ed: We with disabilities we are the unspoken ones. We want our rights, we don't want any problems, we don't want any violence, We just want our rights. We do not overthrow a government. We are loyal to our government. We honor the American flag. We support our soldiers who live and die for us to have freedom, who protect our freedom.

Where Do We Go From Here And How Do We Do It?

Ed: Donald Trump caused this riot. This is very serious. I think Trump should be impeached and this is nothing short of high treason." And these "yahoos" (rioters) get hunted down and arrested. I hope and pray that the federal prisons are really getting for these "yahoos". I hope Trump goes to prison for life. Because this guy is nothing more than a treasonous president.

Shannon - And with these riots we don't want that to get into another situation like what happened last week. We need more officers or police. And people must be arrested for this riot. It's got to end this way.

Mikayla: This didn't have to become violent. I understand that they were upset about the results of the election, but Americans do not act like this destroying federal buildings to change the election results. It gives me chills and reminds me

of mass shootings that have happened across our country. I hope Americans calm down and act civil to one another.

Kile: I am also concerned about people being crowded together and now spreading the virus when they return to their home states.

The Need To Focus On People With Disabilities

Francesco: I think that the Senate and US House of Representatives should look more into what people with developmental disabilities go through in our day-to-day life and how much we struggle. They have to do more than just talk about it. And Congress should address the LGBTQ movement. I am part of it, and I am proud of it.

Mikayla: I never hear legislators on the federal or state level talking about people with developmental disabilities. They need to put themselves in our shoes. I think they should come to provider agencies and work a few weeks as a DSP supporting people with disabilities.

Shannon - One important concern for Biden to address is our health care plan which Trump has failed to do in his four years. We Americans have the right to receive health care in their own states.

Danielle: With regard to the disability rights and standing up for what we need, I think given everything going on with COVID, ALL people with disabilities need to receive stimulus checks regardless if we get benefits. People with disabilities work, we support our families, and we deserve to get a slice of the pie like everybody else. And to SABE, this is something we really need to speak with the Biden administration about because we deserve our fair share as well.

Mandy -. People with disabilities have the right to speak up. Also, I feel that the stimulus check should be 2 thousand dollars.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Michael: We all have our own opinions. But I'm trying to agree to disagree and trying to be friends with everybody. It is hard. We need to realize that because it's going to take a lot to work through the pain. I am hoping over time we can have time to think and we all can answer why we feel the way we do. Why you agree with something and why you disagree with other points. And know that it is hard

for all of us to answer why. We need to work our way through our anger... it's going to be hard...

Diana: My name is Diana. In Washington D.C we had a day of unrest. Today I am writing on how to move forward.

I encourage all Citizens to:

1. Continue to support Civic Engagement in a positive way.
2. Our government will have to rebuild our foundation of trust in getting and understanding new and old leadership.
3. The Capitol building is a place that symbolizes the true connection of power and voices to our leaders and constituents.

David: I think right now we just need to heal as a nation and also to focus and reflect as a as a nation, how we can talk to our neighbors. We need to hold people accountable and also learn from the mistakes we made. As a nation we have a strong will to learn and teach the new generation coming after us by focusing on the good in our country.

Darren: I want to see things change. Let's go back to Black Lives Matter. I pray that things change in this world. When Biden and Harris take office. I pray I hope it would be a lot better. We need to stop worrying about all the color of someone's skin. I say the same thing about the color of our political beliefs, Blue or red. If we stop looking at those things, we can come together as a nation and stuff like this would not happen. We need to get Democrats and Republicans to work together, and a lot of stuff going on in the world kind will come to an end.