

## Trump's racism apparently knows no limits

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It was Goebbels who suggested that fascists should blame their enemies of that which the fascists were guilty of. The Trump administration has clearly taken his advice to heart. As the [Guardian has reported](#):

*Trump turned what might have been a sombre a press conference into a baseless rant against DEI, despite no evidence of a link with the crash at Ronald Reagan Washington National airport, which involved an American Airlines jet and a US military helicopter.*

They added:

*The president was backed by the transportation secretary, Sean Duffy, who said “we can only accept the best and the brightest” in positions affecting passenger safety, and the defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, who said: “The era of DEI is gone at the defense department and we need the best and brightest.”*

*Then came the vice-president, JD Vance, who claimed, “we want to hire the best people ... actually competent enough to do the job”, and said without offering evidence that hundreds had sued the US government because “they would like to be air traffic controllers, but they were turned away because of the color of their skin”.*

At the time that they spoke, the names of the victims of this crash were not known, although some have emerged since.

The sheer randomness of what has happened can only make the grief of those who have lost loved ones, whether relatives or friends, very hard. They have my genuine sympathy. Nothing more needed to be offered right now.

Not one of them needed a bunch of white men wading in with racist claims that people who are not white are of lower intelligence and are to blame for what has happened. But that is what they got.

Overt, blatant, utterly unjustified, totally inappropriate and profoundly offensive comments were offered by four successive speakers from the Trump administration, whose response was obviously co-ordinated around their supposed desire to hire the

'best and brightest', who they very clearly implied would, in their opinion, be white, male, Christian (albeit in name only) and heterosexual. The idea that there might be a master race was being made in plain sight when mourning was in order.

Meanwhile, we do know that the person managing air traffic control at the time of the crash was doing the job of two people. Was the other missing because they had already accepted Trump's very recent offer to quit? Since air traffic controllers are federal employees, and almost all of them received such offers, it's an actual question that needs to be asked.

What need never have been said was what Trump and his thugs had to offer the White House press corps, the offence of which can never be undone and which will spread the hurt and pain of this accident far beyond the reach of those who will most immediately suffer. But that, of course, is precisely what Trump wanted.