



A Union of Professionals



SPLC
Southern Poverty
Law Center

November 18, 2016

Dear Mr. President-elect:

On Nov. 8, you were elected president of the United States. As many have reiterated, regardless of which candidate any of us supported, you now have an obligation to represent ALL Americans. In your victory speech, you urged Americans to come together as one united people to take on the challenges before us.

Throughout American history, we have found opportunities to overcome our differences and work together for the common good; it is one of the defining characteristics of our nation's greatness.

In the months leading up to your election, your campaign rhetoric found an audience with those who would use our differences to divide us. Throughout the campaign, you and your supporters directed hateful language at people based on what we look like, where our families come from, who we love, how we worship, our abilities, our gender, and other factors that make up our identity and expression in the world.

In the days since your election, we have seen people—seemingly emboldened by your victory—committing harassment, vandalism, property destruction and even assault based on those differences. Many of these acts have been carried out in your name. Though you may not condone this behavior, your silence gives tacit permission to those who perform these acts.

We are especially troubled by incidents taking place in schools and on college campuses—places where we do everything we can to ensure our children are safe and nurtured, and have the opportunity to grow and learn free of intimidation and hatred. But now we are hearing reports of children chanting “build the wall” at classmates, Muslim students and educators harassed for their clothing, male students intimidating their female classmates and swastikas painted on classroom doors.

Millions of your supporters would never participate in these actions, but your campaign rhetoric has created an environment that enables and encourages those who want to harm others. While you spoke against bullying, intimidation and hate crimes in your “60 Minutes” interview, the appointment of “alt-right” hero Steve Bannon as your chief strategist—which has been cheered by the Ku Klux Klan, the American Renaissance and other white supremacist groups—sends the exact opposite message.

The presidency is about many things. Chiefly, it is about setting an example through your leadership. You have said that you will be the president for all Americans, Mr. Trump. We ask that you keep your promise by loudly, forcefully, unequivocally and consistently denouncing these acts and the ideology that drives them. We ask you to use your position, your considerable platform and even your tweets to send a clear message that hate has no place in our public discourse, in our public policy or in our society.

Yours sincerely,

Randi Weingarten, President
AFT

Maureen B. Costello, Teaching Tolerance Director
Southern Poverty Law Center

American Federation of Teachers	Fuse Washington	National Partnership for Women & Families
Southern Poverty Law Center	Futures Without Violence	National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
AFL-CIO	Gamaliel Network	National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
African American Ministers In Action	Girls Inc.	National Women's Law Center
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee	GLSEN	Network for Public Education
American Association of University Professors	Good Jobs Nation	Network for Public Education Action
American Association of University Women	Human Rights Campaign	Newtown Action Alliance
American Federation of Government Employees	Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement	NextGen Climate
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees	Jewish Labor Committee	Not in Our Town
American Postal Workers	J Street	Operation Respect
Americans United for Separation of Church and State	Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster	Pride at Work
Amnesty International	Labor Council for Latin American Advancement	ProgressNow
Asian Americans Advancing Justice	Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights	Progress Florida
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance	Rabbi Ellen Lippmann	Progress Michigan
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence	Many Voices: A Black Church Movement for Gay and Transgender Justice	Progress North Carolina
Association of School Business Officials	Rabbi Marc Margolius	Progress Virginia
Badass Teachers Association	John Merrow	Race Institute for K-12 Educators
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II	MomsRising	Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Black Women's Roundtable	MoveOn	Reconstructionist Rabbinical College/ Jewish Reconstructionist Communities
Bully Project	MPOWER Financing	School Social Work Association of America
Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools	Muslim Community Network	Schott Foundation for Public Education
Center for American Progress	NAACP Washington Bureau	Service Employees International Union
Center for Community Change Action	NARAL Pro-Choice America	Rev. Al Sharpton
Center for Popular Democracy	National Action Network	States United to Prevent Gun Violence
Champion Women	National Alliance to End Sexual Violence	Rabbi Susan Talve
Change to Win	National Association for Bilingual Education	TESOL International Association
Character.org	National Association of Letter Carriers	Rabbi Rachel Timoner
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues	National Association of Secondary School Principals	T'ruah
Climate Truth	National Center for Lesbian Rights	Tyler Clementi Foundation
Coalition of Labor Union Women	National Center for Transgender Equality	Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network
Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen	National Coalition on Black Civic Participation	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, New York City	National Congress of Black Women, Inc.	UNITE HERE
Congregation Bet Haverim, Atlanta	National Council of Jewish Women	United Auto Workers
Courage Campaign	National Council of La Raza	United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence	National Council of La Raza Action Fund	United Steelworkers
Demos	National Domestic Violence Hotline	United We Dream
Economic Policy Institute Policy Center	National Education Association	VoteVets
EMILY's List	National Immigration Law Center	Voto Latino
Feminist Majority Foundation	National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health	Wisconsin Jobs Now
Freelancers Union	National Organization for Women	Working America
		Workplace Fairness