

Kenyon College

November 14, 2016

Dear Students, Colleagues, and Members of our Community,

We stand in solidarity with those groups on campus, to which we belong and to which we don't, who are experiencing marginalization, threats, oppression, fear, loneliness, or ostracization. We write at the close of a vitriolic presidential campaign that aggressively legitimized intimidation of and violence against people of color, immigrants of all statuses, Muslims and Muslim-passing people, Jews, women of all backgrounds, trans people, LGBTQI+ people, people with disabilities, and people at the intersection of these identities. We reject this without exception and without caveat. **We vehemently reject the notion that our country can or may institutionalize privilege of one group over another.**

We stand with each other and with you.

We reject the notion that human rights apply to select groups. We reject the idea that the protection of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is a political issue. We reject hate in all its forms. We oppose the evils of discrimination, bigotry, and practices that demean and marginalize members of our community and the nation.

There is a time for every purpose and every work. We recognize that individual people support specific politicians for complex reasons. The time will come for careful analysis and deep understanding of this election cycle. We will look to each other for critical understanding. We will promote open, civil discourse as we gain that understanding. We will have different political viewpoints and make different choices. We are, however, completely committed to the common good and to a high ethical and moral standard in which hate, targeting, or limiting the rights of any resident of any status are categorically rejected. We believe America's promise of greatness can only be realized when our entire community is included in working for the common good. And right now, we can not "be okay."

We will not "be okay" until all marginalized communities can honestly claim the inalienable rights protected by the texts of our democracy—not for citizens or for groups, but for humanity.

We will not "be okay" until the last members of the community are.

We will not "be okay" until we all no longer fear for our safety.

We pledge to maintain and strengthen Kenyon's commitment to inclusion and equity. Our community, classrooms, and intellectual disciplines are enriched by the heterogeneity of people from different places, backgrounds, families, and experiences. We pledge to be the people you can come to for help and support. We pledge to work to anticipate needs so we will not need to be asked. We pledge to persist in the face of inevitable setbacks. **Please tell us what you need from the community.** We are allies. We will work to enact concrete steps that enable long-lasting progress.

In loving support,

Harry Itagaki
Jim Dennen
Matt Rouhier
Greg Spaid
Joseph Klesner
Sergei Lobanov-Rostovsky
Kerry Rouhier
Janet McAdams
Carol Schumacher
Jaquira Díaz
Rachel Kessler
Katherine Hedeem
Andrea S. White
David M. Rowe
Terry Karpinski
Melissa Dabakis
Tomas Gallareta Cervera
Kathy Krynski
Andrew Engell
Jennifer Johnson
Patricia Vigderman
Hewlet McFarlane
Rebecca Lloyd Waller
Beth Schultz
Jan Thomas
Lauren Laskey
Dana Krieg
Galina An
Marie Snipes
Bill Heiser
Simon Garcia
Joyce Klein
Andy Niemiec
Chris Kennerly
Rosemary O'Neill
Steve Van Holde
Mo Hunsen
Sheryl Hemkin
Ariane Sletner
Buffy Hallinan
Anneke Mason
Bob Milnikel
Thomas Hawks
Scott Thielke
William Suarez-Potts
Bob Mauck
Brian Jones
Marta Sierra

Judy Holdener
Ellen Mankoff
Pamela Faust
Maria Mendonça
Katharine Weber
Ric Sheffield
Teri Blanchard
Lee Schott
Laurie Finke
Meg Galipault
Sarah Kahrl
Robin Nordmoe
Jacqueline R. McAllister
Gordon Loveland
Karen Snouffer
Stella Ryan-Lozon
Ron Griggs
Dave Suggs
Daniel Hartnett
Michael Muhammad Knight
Jené Schoenfeld
Allan Fenigstein
Shaun Golding
Robert Bennett
Frank Peiris
Gilda M. Rodríguez
Pashmina Murthy
Doug Misarti
Kimmarré Murphy
Linda Metzler
Julia Warga
Austin Porter
Erika Farfan
Ann Palcisco
Bryant Kirkland
Anna Duke Reach
Ivonne M. García
Bev Morse
Ross Feller
Julie Brodie
Erin Salva
Kathy Rowe
PJ Glandon
Mort Guiney
Jeffrey Bowman
Juan De Pascuale
Sarah Heidt
Phil Brooks

Shawn Farnell
Adam Gilson
Eliza Ablovatski
Linda Smolak
Hoi Ning Ngai
Kathryn Edwards
Timothy Sullivan
Yang Xiao
Matt Suazo
Jianhua Bai
Balinda Craig-Quijada
Anton Matytsin
Paula Turner
Yutan Getzler
Graham Coursey
Christopher Bickford
Brett Skillman
Eric Holdener
Nurten Kilic
Leo Riegert, Jr.
Nancy Powers
Courtney DeCosky
Stephen Volz
David Hoyt
Pierre Dairon
Joan Slonczewski
Ying Liu
Irene Lopez
Mary Jane Cowles
Kim McMullen
Jacque DeMarco
Miriam Dean-Otting
James McGavran
Luis Biava
Paula Millin
Victor Rodriguez Nunez
Joel Richeimer
Katherine Elkins
Vanessa Ripley
Elly Farnell
Michelle Mood
Uma Vangal
Eugene Dwyer
Siobhan Fennessy
David Skubby
Wendy Singer
Jon Sherman
Ellen Sheffield

David Heithaus
David Lynn
Andrew Kerkhoff
Sarah Murnen
Christopher Hemmig
Peter Samuels
Amy Blumenthal
Lisa Swaim
Marcella Hackbardt
Karen Hicks
Mary Kathryn Malone
Bruce Hardy
Abigail Miller
Susan Delozier
Jennifer Delahunty
Noah Aydin
Ed Schortman
Celso M. Villegas
James P. Skon
Tom Giblin
Robert Alexander
Mónica García Blizzard
Adele Davidson
Jillian Watts
Read Baldwin
John Hofferberth
Alicia Misarti
Kathleen Fernando
Liz Keeny
Patricia Urban
Jenna Nolt
Margaret S. Yoon
Nicole Brandon
Marla H. Kohlman
Nancy Sowders
Jill Greenwood
Madeline Wade
Barbara Kakiris
Michelle Dunavant
Rebecca Wolf
Jennifer Marcellana
Amy Badertscher
Bill Klein
Tory Weber
Jonathan E. Tazewell
Peter Rutkoff
Joshua VanArsdall
Pamela Camera-Rowe

Theodore O. Mason, Jr.
Margaree Little
Jennifer McMahon
Sarah Petersen
Sam Pack
Piers Brown
Lewis Hyde
Kora Radella
Qussay Al-Attabi
Claire Novotny
Joseph Adler
Wade Powell
Richard B. Hoppe
Todd Burson
Joy Brennan
Reginald L. Sanders
Yan Zhou
Dane Heuchemer
Karen Bagne
Andy Grace
Vernon Schubel
Noelle Jordan
Claudia Esslinger
Wendy MacLeod
Chris Kern
Alexandra Bradner
Clara Román-Odio
Sandra Lee
Anna Aydinyan
James Keller