



To the Seattle University community,

This past week has been full of reflection, emotions, and discernment for all of us.

In light of last Tuesday's results of the 2016 United States Presidential election, Student Government of Seattle University would like to reflect and discuss ways of moving forward. We recognize that marginalized communities have historically faced harm, discrimination, and violence, and we must be aware of the consistent threat and endangerment that they all continue to experience. It is important to acknowledge the continued existence of hate crimes and violence in the United States directed towards people who have historically been marginalized by society. SGSU wholeheartedly denounces these actions.

In the last two years, and especially in the last week and a half since the election, there has been an increase in violence against people of color, women of color, Muslims, Latinx folk, LGBTQIA+ folk, and people with disabilities, amongst many other marginalized groups. It is *imperative* that we not only recognize this, but actively fight *against* it. SGSU will never condone the hate that is being validated in today's world. If you see any sort of violence on or off campus, we encourage you to report it to the Department of Public Safety or Seattle Police Department. Additionally, we encourage students to take advantage of any accessible on-campus resources beyond SGSU that match each person's individual level of comfort, such as Health and Wellness Crew (HAWC), Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Office of Institutional Equity, and/or Survivor Support Network (SSN). These acts of violence are unacceptable. They have contributed to the instillation of fear within these aforementioned communities, and we must not invalidate the feelings of fear from any individual within them.

One way of helping combat this violence is by recognizing our privilege, being both an active listener to those directly affected by the outcome of the election, and being an ally who stands behind marginalized folks as part of a compassionate support system. It is crucial that students understand each individual's stake(s) in today's social climate. We are currently living in a very divisive world. As a community, we must always uphold Seattle University's mission statement in striving towards "a just and humane world".

SGSU is currently working on strengthening rights and resources for undocumented students, as well as continuing conversations about racism, sexism, ableism, phobias, and other forms of hate on this campus. Representatives are striving to seek visibility for veterans and aid for adult learners. We are working towards building better awareness of sexual assault on and off college campuses, and are striving to establish student-involved programs that explore the

complexities of climate change and efforts that we as a body can make to help sustain our global environment. Additionally, we are working towards creating sanctuary spaces at Seattle University that provide room for reflection, dialogue, and/or discernment. These spaces will be used to combat hate and threats on our campus and in our community.

We encourage the Seattle University community to continue carrying critical conversations about the state of our country with others, both on and off campus. Including SGSU, we must all do a better job at advocating for what we believe in, and holding dialogues with both like- and unlike-minded folks about the current issues within our society.

We wish to acknowledge that, as your elected representatives, we are here to help and support you in any way possible, regardless of your political identification. We will continue to provide spaces and resources that allow you to process anything you need to move forward within your own community and others, so that we can all act in unity. We encourage students to stay vigilant and active with any and all causes that they are passionate about. Advocate for the causes, communities, and concerns that your vote represents.

As we move forward with compassion for everyone, we encourage all students to have an open perspective when it comes to other people's emotions, thoughts, and/or political stances. We at SGSU would like to reiterate that we are here as resources for you. We will continue to be active listeners for each student on this campus, and will continue to provide inclusive spaces for open dialogue, and freedom of expression and thoughts. Additionally, we encourage you all to do the same for each other, as well as yourselves. Tensions are high universally, and it's important that we take care of ourselves and each other.

In unity, solidarity, and love,  
The 2016-17 Student Government of Seattle University

  
**Carlos Rodriguez**  
Student Body President