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