

Statement of Solidarity

November 14, 2016

As faculty and staff at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, we who have signed below are writing to express our unwavering commitment to equality, intellectual rigor, scholarship and action in the service of others, diversity, inclusivity, and non-violence. We value and stand in solidarity with people of color, Muslims, immigrants, asylum-seekers, refugees, members of the LGBTQI communities, all those in favor of equality and social justice — and with women and girls across the spectrum.

One of the primary goals of a Fletcher education is for students to better understand and be able to directly engage with systems and institutions of political, military, social, economic, legal and cultural power in an informed and responsible manner. Several of our fields of study, such as Gender Analysis and Human Security, also enable students to sharpen their understanding of how gender, ethnicity, race, religion, class, caste, religion, sexual orientation and disability intersect as forms of power to organize authority, institutions, rights, responsibilities, access to resources and life options. These tools are essential for the future leaders we have the pleasure and privilege of teaching at the Fletcher School, and we believe these are the very skills to draw upon in this uncertain moment.

We have heard from many people this week who are feeling frightened, concerned and isolated after the recent US elections. These disempowering feelings are not what we want for any member of our community, and as educators we feel it is our responsibility to respond and contribute to respectful public debate and practice.

What can you do?

First, reach out to each other, show caring, support and solidarity. Make a point to smile at and greet people that you know and don't know as you pass them during your daily activities. Help to ensure that the public and private places you care about are welcoming to everyone.

Second, if you encounter bullying or behavior that is targeting others, including people you don't know, have the courage to immediately stand up and speak out to stop the behavior, doing so in ways that avoid escalation or further polarization.

Third, each day know that you can make a difference by the example you set for yourself and for others. Make each day count as we collectively work for a just and equitable world.

We draw strength from the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice."

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