

OUR NO TO BIGOTRY, HATRED, AND VIOLENCE

October 30, 2018

Yet again I write in the wake of horrific events in our nation. In just days of time we have witnessed a hateful shooting in a grocery store, politically partisan attacks with pipe bombs against national figures, and the tragic killings of members of the Jewish community in Pittsburgh.

The first of these incidents had racist, anti-black motivation, the second had a partisan political motivation, and the last had a bigoted, anti-Semitic motivation. There is a sickness in our nation; we are not well.

We mourn with those who are suffering immense loss and pain. We acknowledge the ways in which these events, and the ongoing toxic and divisive culture that pits people against one another has gained such momentum in our society and creates fear and distress in our communities, including our own campus community and our surrounding neighborhoods.

This is the time, once again, to rise up. To rise up and to say *No* to bigotry, to hatred, and to violence. To say *No* to urges to disrespect and devalue and dehumanize others. To say *No* to those in our nation, including some of our elected leaders, who tempt and taunt us to join them in degrading and demeaning others.

To all this we say, *No*.

Bigotry, hatred, and violence in our culture are relentless. In response, we will be unrelenting in respecting the dignity of every person, in standing with those who are oppressed, and in loving our neighbors.

A perfect nation we do not have, but it is ours to form a more perfect union. Likewise, our Commonwealth, our city, and our community are imperfect, but they are ours to make more just and equitable, to make more like the places we all want to live.

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