

Resolution on Solidarity with Students, Staff, and Faculty Experiencing Discrimination

The University of Wisconsin-Madison comprises faculty, staff, and students from a wide array of ethnic, racial, national, and religious backgrounds, and the diversity that results from their presence in our community enriches our social interactions and our intellectual exchanges. In recent months we have witnessed a distressing increase in verbal abuse and other kinds of discriminatory behaviors against a variety of groups. In particular, the Muslim members of our community have become the targets of violent actions and abusive language, hostility that is longstanding and has intensified in recent months.

We as a faculty respond to this intolerable situation by confirming that these groups are an integral part of our community. We value these groups and what they contribute to the university community.

Whereas the UW-Madison is an institution that proudly upholds and fosters freedom of expression and belief without fear; and

Whereas we prize and count as integral to our institution the individuality and the diversity of beliefs, religious and otherwise, of all of our students, staff colleagues, and faculty colleagues; and

Whereas Islamophobic and other discriminatory actions and statements have arisen in mainstream American culture; and

Whereas we understand the high costs of religious prejudice and bias to the mission of an academic setting;

Therefore be it resolved that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate stands united with targets of discrimination everywhere, and particularly with Muslims in our academic community. Disparagement of one group is disparagement of us all.