

The Gender Studies Program at Skidmore College, like other such programs and departments across the country and the National Women's Studies Association, is committed to fighting against misogyny and intersecting injustices from racism and xenophobia to homophobia and transphobia.<sup>1</sup> We are deeply distressed by what the recent election and its aftermath have revealed about the deep and pervasive roots of social injustice in our country, despite the many material gains made by feminist, anti-racist, anti-poverty, trans, queer, immigrant, and disability rights movements over the past decades. In light of this, we renew our commitment to the fundamental principles of our discipline--to challenge injustice through our scholarship, our teaching, and our practices on and off campus.

We are extremely concerned by the electoral victory of a President-elect who bragged about committing sexual assault, maligned communities of color and immigrant communities, disparaged people with disabilities, proposed a Muslim registry, whose cabinet picks support policies that will likely exacerbate income inequality and climate change, and whose vice-president elect advocates for defunding Planned Parenthood, overturning abortion rights, and expanding laws that allow businesses to discriminate against LGBTQ people under the guise of "freedom of religion." In the wake of the election, there has been an upsurge of hate incidents towards targeted groups, particularly black and immigrant communities. Our program feels that we must not remain silent in the face of these developments, but instead must respond by publicly reaffirming our commitment to the principles of feminist inquiry, scholarship, and action.

We also renew our commitment to fighting for justice in the current context in two ways.

First, we will show up for our students, staff, and faculty from targeted groups who have been made even more vulnerable in the aftermath of the election. We will speak out against misogyny and male privilege, white supremacy and white entitlement, Islamophobia and xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia, ableist and anti-Jewish sentiment whenever and wherever they appear on our campus and in the larger Saratoga community.

Second, we propose the following institutional endeavors to support students, staff, and faculty, and the larger Saratoga community who are working towards gender and social justice:

- request that the Skidmore Administration put out a statement of commitment to protect students whose identities might make them targets (including a statement about making Skidmore a sanctuary campus or an equivalent refusal to report and cooperate with ICE or a registry that discriminates against undocumented immigrants or Muslims: see CSU statement: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-cal-state-undocumented-students-In-20161116-story.html>)
- arrange for our students to go down to DC to join the Women's March on Washington on January 21, the day after the inauguration (Susan Weber is organizing locally for Saratoga Springs)
- help our students organize to protect reproductive rights (work with and support Vox and Feminist Action Network)

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<sup>1</sup> See the November 28, 2016 NWSA Statement, available at: <http://www.nwsa.org/statements>

- help our students fight against rape culture and sexual harassment (work with and support BARE and Skidmore Pride Alliance, REACT Film Club, Raices)
- support our LGBTQ and gender non-binary students by working with the Skidmore Pride Alliance and QLIC (Queer Lives in Color), and working to increase the number of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus, especially when building new facilities on campus
- help organize a series of classes and events to explain the events of the rise of Trump from a transnational, indigenous, intersectional, and anti-racist feminist perspective (draw on Trump 2.0 syllabus: <http://www.publicbooks.org/feature/trump-syllabus-20>)

This statement is offered by the Advisory Board of the Gender Studies Program at Skidmore College on behalf of the Program and affiliated faculty.

Gender Studies Advisory Board Members: Gwen D’Arcangelis, Gender Studies; Kate Graney, Political Science (Program Director); Eric Morser, History; Minita Sanghvi, Management and Business.

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