

Letter of Solidarity

On Thursday, November 7th, the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (CSGD) received notice that the Westboro Baptist Church — an inflammatory hate group — would be preaching publicly at the Duke School of Law on November 18th. The following day, the Dean of the Law School released a statement emphasizing that the hate group is not permitted to protest on campus. It is believed that in light of this statement, they intend to stage a protest in Durham instead.

We — as members of our respective organizations, as Duke students, and as members of the greater Durham community — extend our solidarity to those affected by this hate group and other groups like them, which serve no purpose other than to spread intolerance. At the end of this letter, we've outlined some resources available to students for support at this time.

This group is empowered by being given a platform to spread their hate. Despite the anger many of us feel at their presence, we will not be hosting a counter protest. We hope that, in doing so, we further deplatform them and remove the means by which they can spread messages of hatred and intolerance.

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Although this act of hate is a very visible manifestation of the larger issues of homophobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and white supremacy, we want to emphasize that this is not an isolated incident. It is indicative of the greater need to work against all manifestations of these forces in our daily lives. Know that the groups represented in this letter are working to acknowledge and provide a space to process the various manifestations of hate experienced in our communities.

Yours in solidarity,

Blue Devils United
Black Student Alliance
Duke Chapter of the NAACP
Mi Gente Duke's Latinx Student Association
International Association
The Bridge
Duke Student Government
The Archive
Baldwin Scholars
Multicultural Greek Council
National Pan-Hellenic Council
Hindu Students Association
Asian American Alliance
Jewish Student Union

Resources

[Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity](#)

The CSGD strives to achieve an inclusive campus climate for students, staff, faculty, and alumnx with marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions through education, advocacy, support, mentoring, academic engagement, and providing space.

[Women's Center](#)

The Women's Center provides therapeutic services to survivors of gender violence, which includes sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking and sexual harassment. The Women's Center is an inclusive space and serves all genders. In addition to providing therapeutic services, the Women's Center also provides education and training initiatives focused on preventing gender violence.

[CAPS](#)

CAPS helps Duke Students enhance strengths and develop abilities to successfully live, grow and learn in their personal and academic lives. We offer many services to Duke undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, including brief individual and group counseling, couples counseling and more. CAPS staff also provide outreach to student groups, particularly programs supportive of at-risk populations, on a wide range of issues impacting them in various aspects of campus life.

[Center for Multicultural Affairs](#)

The Center for Multicultural Affairs (CMA) promotes community engagement, multicultural education, leadership development, and social justice education among the student population. Our programs and services aim to empower students and their organizations to create a vibrant and inclusive community.

[Freeman Center for Jewish Life](#)

The Freeman Center provides a welcoming community for students to explore their identity, celebrate their culture, and engage with Judaism in a real and tangible way. All are welcome, and all are cared for.

[Center for Muslim Life](#)

The Center for Muslim Life is a welcoming space committed to enriching the lives of Muslim students and the whole campus through events and activities that cater to the spiritual, social, and intellectual needs of Duke students.