

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 academic staff respond to this intolerable situation by affirming that these groups are an integral part of our community. Together with our deep respect for all beliefs, we value Islam and all other religions, and those who profess them and those who profess no religious beliefs, for what they contribute to our community.

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

Whereas, we prize and count as integral to our institution both individuality and a diversity of beliefs, religious and otherwise;

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 Academic Staff Assembly stands united with targets of discrimination everywhere, and particularly with Muslims in our community. Disparagement of one group is disparagement of us all.