

TALKING POINTS



Trump joined vice presidential pick Mike Pence on stage at the 2016 Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The presidential nominee spoke of “illegal immigrants ... roaming free to threaten peaceful citizens.” His words in Cleveland only contributed to his divisive presidential run.

Students must stand up, speak out

On Nov. 8, the nation made a shocking decision. Donald J. Trump, businessman extraordinaire, won the presidency.

It's safe to say that this was not an outcome expected by the majority of Americans. Nearly every poll seemed to suggest a Clinton presidency, with CNN having Hillary at a 96 percent likelihood to win on the morning of Election Day. Liberals and conservatives alike geared up for the first female president. Although Clinton actually won the popular vote, Trump brought in 306 electoral votes to win the Oval Office.

Shock reverberated around the country after Trump's win. People walked out of schools in San Francisco. College students in Washington burned the American flag in front of the White House. Protesters flooded the streets of major cities.

Trump's campaign promises included jailing Clinton, deporting 11 million undocumented immigrants, abolishing Obamacare and defunding Planned Parenthood. These policy changes are in stark contrast to what Americans have become used to over the past eight

years. CNN reported that Trump didn't even think he would be in the race past October 2015, which makes what happened on Nov. 8 even more shocking.

Those disappointed by the results have an obligation.

Not much can be done to stop Trump from taking the office on Jan. 20. It's going to happen. What must also happen is standing by people who are afraid. Those who are less affected and targeted by a Trump presidency must stand up and speak out. We must show minorities and people of the LGBTQ+ community that we will not let anything happen to them, not on our watch. We need to protect and defend those who don't have the power to do that for themselves right now.

Protesting and standing against bigotry is the best thing that the American people can do at this moment, regardless of what the President-elect tweets. Trump needs to see this. He needs to hear the cries of minorities and their allies as they fear for their lives, for their safety and for their places in this country.

Regardless of the time that passes or minimal efforts Trump makes to show that

he's fit to lead, we cannot forget everything that he has done. We can't forget the claims of sexual assault, his accusers, his mocking of a disabled reporter at a campaign rally, his blatant Islamophobia and the fact that a large percentage of his own party dismissed him well before Election Day.

The American people cannot grow tired, even years into a Trump presidency. We cannot stop defending and protecting our fellow Americans. A large percentage of our country voted for ignorance, hate and discrimination, whether they intended to or not. It's up to those who care about the entirety of this country's population to uphold humanity and compassion for the next four years.

After Trump, we must make sure that bigotry never wins a democratic election in our country again.

— Alia Carlton

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