



Vietnamese Student Union

Hội Sinh Viên Việt-Nam tại UCLA

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Dear Members of the Vietnamese Student Union (VSU) at UCLA,

In light of the recent presidential election results, VSU would like to make this public statement as the official voice of Vietnamese students on campus. For those of you who are angry, saddened, and afraid of what the results of this election may bring, we are with you. As a political organization, we will not stand for the homophobic, xenophobic, misogynistic, and racist views that are normalized and perpetuated by President-elect Donald Trump. In understanding the interconnectedness among our communities, we realize that discrimination towards one community is a setback for all of us. We hope that the Vietnamese community here at UCLA will challenge these views and stand up for the communities whose rights and livelihoods will be threatened by the hate crimes and discriminatory acts that will escalate in the incoming 4 years. This is not a time for us to be complacent, but a time to mobilize and to advocate not only for ourselves, but for other communities of color as well.

The recent election results do not signal the beginning of discrimination and prejudice, but make more apparent our nation's long-standing issues of racism and discrimination. We should take the momentum of these elections and push forth in order to combat these sentiments and to prepare for what may come. We must educate ourselves and others to engage with the issues and policy changes that may affect the Vietnamese community, so that our voices may be heard and represented at the federal, state, and county levels. We must place our energies into the retention and outreach efforts that will educate and equip our people with the skills and knowledge necessary for community advancement. It is through these community service efforts that we will uplift the Vietnamese community at UCLA and in the Greater Los Angeles Area, together. In closing, the Vietnamese Student Union will be a space where we can discuss ways to move forward, where we will draw upon our strengths as we have done in the past and will continue to do, in unity and in resiliency, regardless of what adversities may come.

If you wish to discuss further regarding the elections, please feel free to sign up for a peer counselor with [SEA CLEAR](#) (Southeast Asian Campus Learning Education and Retention) by emailing seaclear@cpo.ucla.edu, located in the Student Activities Center 105, or to attend VSU General Meetings, Wednesdays 6-7pm. If you wish to become involved and to give back to your community, join our [VSU](#) programs (Black April, SEA Admit, SEATED, etc) or our outreach project [HOPE](#) (Higher Opportunity Program for Education) by emailing hope@cpo.ucla.edu, located in the Student Activities Center 106D.

Please feel free to email us at vsubruins@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Vietnamese Student Union