



## Graduate Student Council Resolution 2017.2

*To Denounce and Condemn All Acts of Racism, Violence and Bigotry*

Presented on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Whereas** the Graduate Student Council works to eliminate obstacles to academic and professional success for all graduate students;

**Whereas** recent demonstrations in Charlottesville, VA on August 12, 2017, with white supremacists publicly opposing social progress and compromising the safety of historically marginalized peoples, have compromised the safety of marginalized peoples and opposed social progress have caught the attention of the national media and student governments across the nation;

**Whereas** these demonstrations, though widely covered in the national media and discussed across college campuses, have a long precedent in this nation and are not inherently new or unique;

**Whereas** it is the responsibility of Graduate Student Council to advocate on behalf of all graduate students and to promote their dignity and worth;

**Whereas** the contributions of students are unique and essential because of – and not despite – their experiences and identities;

**Whereas** tenets of racial and ethnic superiority, purity, and hierarchy are incommensurate with the values of Graduate Student Council and Case Western Reserve University; and

**Whereas** critical engagement with history, politics, social trends, and diverse cultures is paramount to the progress of the human condition.

### **Therefore, by the Graduate Student Council acting in full session, be it**

**Resolved** that the Graduate Student Council will uphold Case Western Reserve University's core values of Diversity and Inclusion for all groups of people, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, political affiliation, or disability;

**Resolved** that the Graduate Student Council formally condemns the violent demonstrations and acts not only in Charlottesville, but around the globe throughout time;

**Resolved** that the Graduate Student Council will take actionable measures that promote celebration of diversity and that rebuke any threat to the safety of marginalized groups of people;

**Resolved** that the Graduate Student Council will engage the campus and community in meaningful dialogues surrounding issues of diversity and inclusion; and

**Resolved** that the Graduate Student Council will advocate tirelessly on behalf of graduate students' needs and desires related to increasing representation and access on campus.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Graduate Student Council by:*

**Rita Tohme**

President, Graduate Student Council  
PhD Candidate  
Department of Molecular Medicine

**Brandon Benjamin**

Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion,  
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**Amendment to the Graduate Student Council Resolution 2017.2**

***To Denounce and Condemn All Acts of Racism, Violence and Bigotry***

Date: December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

“Core values of Diversity and Inclusion” section shall be amended to read as follows:

**Resolved** that the Graduate Student Council will uphold Case Western Reserve University’s core values of Diversity and Inclusion for all groups of people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, political affiliation, or disability.