

Dear President Faust, Provost Garber, Dean Smith, Dean Gay:

On Tuesday, November 15, members of the Harvard University faculty sent you an [open letter that was also published in the \*Crimson\*](#). As members of the History Department community, we, the undersigned, write today to endorse that letter. Many of us, faculty, staff, and students alike, came together as a community on Tuesday to discuss what history and historians have to contribute to conversations about the election. In the spirit of solidarity and shared commitments that emerged in that conversation and others that many of us have had over the past week, we wish to voice our support of undocumented persons at Harvard -- as faculty, as students, as historians, and as members of our larger Harvard community — along with the signatories of the faculty letter that is reproduced below.

Claire Adams  
Sunil Amrith  
David Armitage  
Mou Banerjee  
Tim Barker  
Sven Beckert  
Dan Bertwell  
Brandon Bloch  
Tomasz Blusiewicz  
Chloe Bordewich  
Sugata Bose  
Kelly Brignac  
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Robert Y. Chung  
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Emma Dench  
Joshua Ehrlich  
Caroline Elkins  
Alison Frank Johnson  
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Tommy Jamison  
Andrew Jewett  
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Jane Kamensky  
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Sarah Kennedy Bates  
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Michael McCormick  
Lisa McGirr  
James McSpadden  
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Ian Miller  
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Kristin Oberiano  
Kimberly O'Hagan  
Kelly O'Neill  
Cory Paulsen  
Samantha Payne  
Peter Pellizzari  
Serhii Plokhii  
Andrew Pope  
Intisar A. Rabb  
Jesse Andrew Rakoske  
Hannah Shepherd  
Dan Smail  
Matthew Sohm  
Liat Spiro  
Rephael Stern  
Michael Szonyi  
Hue Tam Ho Tai  
Michael Thornton  
Sonia Tycko  
Laurel Ulrich  
Benjamin D. Weber  
Kirsten Weld  
Georgia Whitaker  
Madeline Williams  
Liang Xu  
Cary Aileen García Yero

Yesterday forty of our courageous undocumented students stood on the steps of Widener Library, and bore witness to their fears – of exposure, of sanction, of deportation. But they also spoke of the sacrifices made by their parents and their own hard work, of the way that their admission to Harvard represented the culmination of a larger, collective effort. It is time for the students, faculty, staff, and administration of Harvard to join them.

The Harvard University website includes a pointed statement about the university's commitment to excellence through diversity, emphasizing "the centrality, importance and complexity of inclusive excellence in our academic and administrative endeavors, [and] the benefits of diverse learning and working environments." The website also emphasizes the ongoing character of the university's commitment: diversity is not simply a matter of admission it is a matter of an ongoing democratic commitment to learning from one another. It is central to the university's mission.

In ways both explicit and implicit, the president-elect of the United States has threatened that mission. Our students, colleagues, and co-workers, immigrants and Muslims and queers and disabled people as well as women of various backgrounds have good reason to fear for the safety in the weeks and months ahead. It will take steadfast commitment and sustained energy to protect the democratic inclusivity and spirit of open inquiry from which this university draws its vitality in the weeks, months, and years that are ahead.

The students who bravely stood on the steps of the library yesterday are on the front lines of that struggle. The president-elect has pledged to revoke the executive order deferring deportation in the case of students or workers in good standing. Because the original executive order allowing for those deferrals required students to register with the government, it created a guide which the new administration will be able to follow to the gates of our campus. It is imperative that we stop them there.

Therefore, the undersigned Harvard faculty call upon the President and administration of Harvard to defend the students and mission of our university by taking actions including, but not limited to the following:

1. Reaffirm the university's commitment to create a campus atmosphere of respect by denouncing the hate speech directed at immigrant, minority, and LGBTQ students and workers, as well as women, and by informing the campus of existing resources (such as hotlines, counseling, and legal assistance) for reporting and responding to bias or hate incidents, at Harvard and beyond.
2. Respond immediately, concretely, and clearly to the petition calling for increased administrative support for undocumented students at Harvard signed by many members of our community and delivered to Dean Khurana yesterday. We understand that Harvard may not be able to take, or may decide against, some of the steps recommended by that petition, but we believe that the students deserve a quick, clear, confident response. Unless and until Harvard hires the additional staff recommended by that petition, Harvard administrators should make clear (on posters, as well as in email, or by other public means) what offices, and what people, are charged with helping undocumented students who require legal, institutional, practical, or psychological support.
3. Declare Harvard to be a "sanctuary campus," (in keeping with its location in Cambridge, a sanctuary city, and REMIND the Harvard University Police as well as all faculty, staff, and administration that it is the university's commitment to support and protect all of its students and workers, regardless of their citizenship status, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.
4. Reaffirm current admission and financial aid policies regarding undocumented students.
5. Guarantee student privacy, in accordance with existing policy, by refusing to release information regarding citizenship status or other personal information.
6. Make clear that Harvard will use all legal and practical means at our disposal to protect all members of our community in the months and years to come.