The divisive and exclusionary tenor of the presidential campaign has, for some, sanctioned hateful rhetoric, discrimination, and violence. These acts violate human rights as well as our core commitments to equality, inclusion, and diversity. They have no place in our society, much less our campus community.

While the election highlighted divisions among us, it also strengthened our resolve to treat one another with respect and kindness. The Department of Bioethics & Humanities has faith in the kindness and good will of our students and colleagues. In bioethics and the humanities more broadly, we routinely invite students, clinicians, and researchers to share their religious, political, professional and cultural values; to articulate reasons for the positions they hold; and to understand and describe the perspectives of those with whom they disagree. This engages not only critical thinking, but compassion.

In light of recent events, many individuals on campus have expressed concern that they are not welcome because of race, gender, religion, intellectual and physical capabilities, immigration status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. In response, the Department of Bioethics and Humanities would like to send a strong message. Everyone is invited and welcomed in our Department, classrooms, and community. The outcome of the election also underscores the needs of those who have felt marginalized in other ways – due to diminishing job opportunities and economic insecurity. You are also welcome in our Department, classrooms and community. We are all strengthened by the full participation of people from many different backgrounds, cultures, and belief systems.

President Ana Mari Cauce & Dr. Jerry Baldasty said it best: “Our University is unwavering in its resolve to create an inclusive, diverse and welcoming community. We can and will work together to find the best in each other, to bridge our differences and to treat each other with the respect and kindness that all people deserve.”

Respectfully,

The faculty & staff of the Department of Bioethics & Humanities
University of Washington School of Medicine