To: Our Great Nation of Vast Diversity,

The amount of tolerance shown in American society has never been more abundant than it is today. As more labeled groups experience a renaissance of social freedom, we can take solace in knowing our fight is not in vain. Yet, amongst these comparatively small (but never insignificant) victories, the greater and more powerful enemy has surfaced: existing as anything other than one American people - without categories and asterisks for race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or any other label henceforth. Identifying anything and everything as the direct result of some form of human desire (by someone, somewhere) it is our firm belief that tolerance is nothing more than an incomplete form of acceptance. Simply tolerating is something we must *not* do. To the contrary, we must unite as one great and together strong nation. Ideological as this may sound, our connected generation enters adulthood armed with weapons of mass social media and the unprecedented ability to place a formal declaration of war upon discriminatory social practices. In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. precisely identified "injustice anywhere as a threat to justice everywhere" - so as one together strong nation we must exhaust these social resources as we refine our language and re-evaluate our practices of routine symbolic discrimination in the relentless pursuit for true freedom in solidarity.

According to a 2015 study conducted by Pew Research Center, an independent "nonpartisan fact tank", nearly two-thirds (~65%) of all American adults use social media. To untrained eyes this number may seem less than astonishing, but any culturally conscious, red-blooded American knows getting two-thirds of our great nation of immigrants to agree on anything is a feat bordering impossibility. 158 million American adults (65% of 243 million adults - 2010 US Census) are given an unrivaled exposure to the thoughts and concerns of their inherently different countrymen on a daily basis. The newly found accessibility of unity is a social weapon wielding a magnitude of power never before seen in the history of humankind. With no more effort than pressing a few buttons, global events and policies can be digested with the insight of those whom they affect the most. The widespread ability to *share* subtle cultural education is incredibly powerful and as this education battles ignorance, understanding and acceptance will be given a fair fight with intolerance.

With unity as our righteous sword, language shall be the shield protecting us from malicious perception. Language is the raw embodiment of our thoughts and emotions so we must use it with eloquence. Let us choose words emphasizing harmony instead of the many implying negativity and separation. Let us eradicate ugly connotations by speaking beautifully. Our language is always evolving and we must force the extinction of common hate speech. One of the most prevalent examples of this ugly use of language has been labeling something unfavorable as "gay". Being neither an accurate nor appropriate use of this word, together strong we must destroy this appalling connotation by removing this context from our vocabulary. Words themselves are harmless - they are merely symbols. However, these symbols find their meaning from our culture. Every time we use a word to describe a certain situation or emotion, we validate that word's meaning. Only a society united has the unique ability to alter these meanings over time - for good or for evil. Our thoughts and opinions have never been easier to share, and only by speaking beautifully can we defend our united nation against the venomous use of our shared language.

For 53 years, the Confederate flag was flown outside the state house in South Carolina. For 53 years this symbol of separation, segregation, and intolerance was displayed prominently alongside the flag of our great nation. While the Civil War is undeniably the most influential moment in our (American) history - and should never be censored - the Confederate flag as we know it today is a symbol created and used with very different yet tangible origins in racism. It took over 75 years for today's Confederate flag symbol to return to American culture after the Civil War ended in 1865. Seceding themselves from the Democratic party at the time, the segregationist "Dixiecrats" adopted this symbol in the late-1940s to rally the votes of those who vehemently opposed civil rights and desegregation. Under the misleading guise of heritage and tradition, in 1962 - the epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement - this flag was proudly hoisted outside the

state house in South Carolina in an act of defiance against the increasing threat of federally mandated civil rights reform. For 53 years this flag was sewn with hate and flown with purpose. No more will this type of symbolism be tolerated. One-by-one, in our crusade for solidarity, symbols of separation and hatred *will* be exposed and they *will* be extinguished.

Let us only visit the simplicity of tolerance in our march towards acceptance and unity - for our time is now. Only together strong can we shoulder the weight of a world connected while waging war on a nation divided. We must use the power of social media that has been bestowed upon us with deliberate compassion. At this time of writing - in the wake of the most devastating mass murder in the history of our nation - the vast sea of inconceivable evil, contrary to all intentions, turns up shells of unwavering human solidarity. Lines of eager blood donors stretch the length of city blocks in Orlando, Florida. Rainbow flags light up skyscrapers, signs, and profile pictures nationwide. Millions of prayers and condolences are being sent, spoken, tweeted, commented, and posted throughout the world in support of the victims and their families. There is great beauty in unity. Let us enter adulthood with clear eyes, open minds and gracious hearts so we may fulfill our destiny together strong. Only together strong can we weather overwhelming adversity. Only together strong can we face the most powerful evils. Together strong we must be. Together strong we are.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the future voters, leaders, politicians, policymakers, and united citizens of a together strong American nation and together strong humankind.

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