



Joint Statement of the members of the Women's Funding Network

July 24, 2019

Women's and Girls' grantmakers, organizations and supporters across the country stand together in condemning the recent vitriol shown towards our country's female elected officials, and in particular, female elected officials of color.

To these attackers and their defenders, we say this:

You do not represent the shared values that move our country forward. These values recognize and embrace leadership from all walks of life, recognizing the strength of diversity.

For more than 100 years, American women have fought to gain our rightful place in our government institutions. We will not back down. You cannot erase our presence, nor keep us from taking our place as leaders of this great democracy.

As you continue to judge and demean people by gender, country of origin, and skin color, we will take the high road. We will judge people by character and by actions alone. We will never stop speaking out against the words and actions of those driven by sexism, racism and xenophobia.

The Women's Funding Network, its members and partners are steadfast in their support of women of ALL backgrounds who serve and aspire to serve our country in an elected capacity.

We support the active participation in our democracy by those who were not born here, but who have worked hard to become citizens and have pledged their loyalty to our country. America has always been a country of immigrants. We do not turn our backs on these citizens, and we will not stand to let the actions of a few diminish the valuable contributions they have made to our society.

Your words were intended to divide. They did not. Together we stand, more united than ever.

Signed:

1. Cynthia Nimmo, President and CEO, Women's Funding Network

2. Dawn Oliver Wiand, Executive Director, Iowa Women's Foundation
3. Surina Khan, CEO, Women's Foundation of California
4. Donna Haghghat, CEO, Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts
5. Sarah Ghiorse, Executive Director, NewMexicoWomen.Org
6. Valerie Bassett, Executive Director, Women's Fund of Southeastern MA
7. Lee Roper-Batker, CEO and President, Women's Foundation of Minnesota
8. Sheri Scavone, Executive Director, WNY Women's Foundation
9. Michelle Zych, Executive Director, Women's Fund of Omaha
10. Kelly Nevins, Executive Director, Women's Fund of Rhode Island
11. Sharon LaRue, Executive Director, Kentucky Foundation for Women
12. Trish Tierney, Co-founder, CEO, WAKE (Women's Alliance for Knowledge Exchange)
13. Jennifer Steadman, Executive Director, Aurora Women and Girls Foundation, Hartford, Connecticut
14. Francoise Girard, President, International Women's Health Coalition
15. Meg Smith, Director, Vermont Women's Fund
16. Louise Davis, PRBB Foundation
17. Tracy DeVries, Executive Director, Women's Foundation of Mississippi
18. Erika Sander, Director, Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee (Wisconsin)
19. Terry Hernandez, Executive Director, Chrysalis Foundation (Des Moines, Iowa)
20. Kathy Andersen, Executive Director, The Women's Fund Miami-Dade
21. Felicia Davis, President & CEO, Chicago Foundation for Women
22. Ruby Bright, Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis
23. Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat, Washington Area Women's Foundation
24. Tine Ward, Rockflower Partners Inc.
25. Tanna Clews, New Hampshire Women's Foundation
26. Leela Bilmes Goldstein, Executive Director, Women's Fund of Hawai'i
27. Kim Burnett, Shadhika
28. Eileen Fisher and Antoinette Klatzky, Eileen Fisher Foundation
29. Jen Euell, Women's Foundation of Montana
30. Nicole Baran and Nora Turner, Peggy and Jack Baskin Foundation
31. Jackie Jenkins-Scott, Boston Women's Fund
32. Teresa Younger, President and CEO, Ms. Foundation
33. Ana Oliveira, President and CEO, The New York Women's Foundation

34. Stacey Keare, President, Girls Rights Project
35. Julianne Lusenge, Executive Director, Fonds Pour Les Femmes Congolaises
36. Julie Castro Abrams, Founder and CEO, How Women Lead
37. Jeannine Carpenter, Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga
38. Cathy Seasholes, Director, Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee (Wisconsin)
39. Monica Shah-Davidson, Director, Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee (WI)
40. Emily O'Donnell, Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga