

JMU Faculty Senate Resolution

Faculty Senate Statement on Extremist Violence Impacting the University of Virginia And Charlottesville Communities

The James Madison University faculty stand with the people of Charlottesville, Virginia, and with our colleagues at the University of Virginia. We condemn the terrorism and violence inflicted in August 2017 by white supremacists that expressed the hatred of African-Americans, Asians, Hispanics, Jews, Muslims, and other integral members of our diverse country. We are also deeply troubled by reports of misogynistic and homophobic language and actions, which compound the violence and hatred directed at members of all of the aforementioned groups. Aubtin Heydari, son of JMU Professor M. Hossain Heydari, suffered serious injuries when he was struck by a car driven into a group of counter-protestors. We extend all our best wishes to Aubtin in the hope of a speedy and full recovery.

The James Madison University community extends its appreciation for the heroic actions of members of the University of Virginia community, including Professor Walt Heinecke, Dean of Students Allen Groves, and librarian Tyler Magill, for rushing to assist University of Virginia students seeking to protect University of Virginia property from the malicious actions of a mob of extremists seeking to spread their message of hate and intolerance. James Madison University expresses its full solidarity with the University of Virginia students and the citizens of Charlottesville who stood against hatred and intolerance, and University of Virginia faculty members who put their concern for their students ahead of their own personal safety.

The James Madison University Faculty Senate supports James Madison University President Jonathan R. Alger in his commitment and plan to establish a university-wide task force to examine how JMU might prepare for possible disruptive actions by groups and individuals intent upon spreading hate and intolerance on the James Madison University campus. James Madison University remains firmly dedicated to civil discourse, diversity and inclusiveness.