



SAI Steering Committee Statement on Hate

When Summit Area Indivisible was formed in early part of 2017, we made it a clear priority to represent inclusion and diversity. We stated what we were *for* (maintaining the U.S. as the beacon of opportunity, stability, force for humanitarian efforts and peace. We stand for **inclusion**) and what we were *against* (authoritarianism, corruption, **racism, hatred of any kind**, fake or alternative facts, war, corporations above individuals).

Our mission is to mobilize Summit Area residents to speak as one “louder” voice and take deliberate actions to halt the aggressive attacks on our US Constitution, our individual freedoms, and our stability as the leader of the free world by the Trump administration and Congress. We aim to resist hatred, encourage policy based facts and protect the values of our democracy.

We believe in inclusion, respect and fairness in all of our actions. We believe in maintaining the US as a beacon of opportunity, stability, force for humanitarian efforts and peace. We demand that our Congressional representatives serve as our voice in Washington D.C. Over the past few weeks and months, Summit and our surrounding communities—all of whom are represented in our Summit Area group—have been witness to and hurt by signs of hate. Swastikas were found in our Summit Middle School and High School as well as in a Westfield school; KKK flyers and pamphlets with racist and anti-Semitic messages were found in other communities; and the use of other hateful signs, words and symbols have risen to the surface. We know that some of this is not new and that signs of hate have existed over many generations. However, the current administration in Washington, D.C. has unleashed much more chaos, confusion and hatred, and in the technological world that we live in today, much of that confusion and hatred escalates causing additional pain and fear.

The SAI Steering Committee, representing all SAI members, clearly, unanimously and without any doubt or reservation, denounce any form of hatred, bigotry—period. We also denounce defacing of any property.

As SAI members, our goal is to be beacons of hope and light, striving to leverage diversity and inclusion to solve problems and progress as a human family. We believe that education and dialogue are critical to driving understanding among diverse groups. We also know that there are people and groups that aim to divide us for various reasons. *We denounce any person or group in our communities that try to divide us with signs and symbols and words of hate.*

As Summit Area residents, parents, grandparents, young adults and students, each one of us plays a key role in driving dialogue and understanding and calling out hate when we see it or experience it. It is our responsibility to alert the appropriate authorities but also to understand that we can bring about change only with light and love—not with more hate. We encourage all our members to turn their anger, disappointment, and fear into action, education, love and unity.

In solidarity with all people,
SAI Steering Committee