



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
**GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL**

**Statement on the Charlottesville Tragedy**

We, the Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, collectively send our thoughts and deepest sympathies to the families and victims of the violence in Charlottesville that occurred on August 12, 2017. We stand in solidarity with those who continue to be affected.

We share the fundamental American values of a united, safe, and free nation for all, regardless of one's race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, religion, or sexual orientation. We live in a country where freedom of speech is an inalienable right guaranteed to all. That right comes with the responsibility to speak up when our values are threatened and denounce any ideology of hatred.

We vehemently denounce all white supremacist and anti-Semitic groups, neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, and other abhorrent groups, and unequivocally condemn expressions of racist or bigoted ideas. We believe that meeting hateful rhetoric with silence is unacceptable and enables the normalization of these morally bankrupt beliefs, which have no place in our society. We applaud the individuals and groups who were present and forthright in peaceful opposition against that hate.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is, and shall remain, a place of openness and equality. As members of both the MIT community, and as members of the Boston and Cambridge community, we will always stand up for those among us vulnerable to the umbrage of hate. The sentiments of bigotry expressed in Charlottesville affect us all and will continue to affect us if left unchecked. Although heinous ideas will often try to tear us apart, if we unite as allies against injustice, discrimination, and violence with integrity, fortitude, and peace, we shall always overcome.

*This statement was written and prepared on behalf of the MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC) by the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee and External Affairs Board. August 2017*