

Veena Dwivedi
Women's march on Washington: Niagara Edition
Sat Jan 21, 2017

Good morning everyone!

Big shoutout to Laura Ip for her courage and vision in organizing. THANK YOU Laura! And thank YOU all for being here.

So why am I marching?

Well, I'll tell you why I'm NOT marching:

I'm not marching because I'm a woman.

I'm not marching because I'm brown.

I'm not marching because I'm a professor @ Brock (go Brock!)

I'm marching because I AM A HUMAN BEING.

But that's not what Mr Trump wants you to see when you see me. He wants you to categorize me in an instant.

He wants you to see me as female, GenX, dark person.

Oops, let's not forget "elite".

And, I am at once all of those things and none of those things.

I'm here marching today because if I DON'T STAND UP to help FIGHT FOR the values that unite us, the values that say, let GO of the categories.

LET GO OF THE DIVISION.

If I don't stand up for the values that Mahatma Gandhi fought for, that Harriet Tubman risked her life for, that Nellie McClung argued for, that Dr King articulated for, if I don't stand up NOW, then when?

We have taken these values for granted because they are true.

That being said, SOMEBODY ELSE, sometime ago, white/brown/black young old fought for.

We thought we were DONE.

The election of Mr Trump shows that it's NOT DONE.

We can NOT stand by.

I'm marching here today as a citizen who is concerned for the future of her children and all our children.

Why should our young people have to face a world that looks like this?

When I was in high school and university, the world had problems, but I had a sense that it was moving in the RIGHT DIRECTION.

I was wrong because look at where we are now.

So now I'm here standing up.

Finally, I'm here marching because I have dedicated my whole life, my whole life to really ONE THING: and that's the pursuit of truth.

Mr Trump and his colleagues, they want you to question the experts, question facts, question hypotheses.

That's a fight I'm OK with. Bring it ON.

I'm ready to roll.

I was saddened by his election because I felt that after 20 years of teaching at university, that my work did NOT make a difference.

Well, I'm NOT giving up. I'm NOT dead yet.

I'm marching for HOPE. I'm marching for TRUTH. I'm marching for HUMANITY.

I'm marching for our children's future.

THANK YOU.