

**Resolution SS1415-16****March 25, 2015**

LAUREN A. VIDAL, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT  
SHANNON S. MONTAGUE, STUDENT UNION CHIEF OF STAFF

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN OPEN LETTER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME'S PEER INSTITUTIONS**

*Resolved by the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac,*

*Whereas*, the tragedy at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and other international incidents regarding the issues of identity are a cause of significant reflection on this campus and, more broadly, across similar institutions of higher education around the country;

*Therefore, be it resolved* that the Student Body of the University of Notre Dame submit an open letter (Enclosure 1) to the University's peer institutions.





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To Whom It May Concern,

We, the students of the University of Notre Dame, write an open letter to the students of the University of North Carolina to express our sincere condolences regarding the tragic deaths of Deah Barakat, Yusor Mohammad, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha as well as to offer the support of our community to yours. We are shocked and saddened by this tragedy and continue to mourn your loss as our own.

As a Catholic institution, we strive to live out our core belief in common human dignity and to affirm a sincere commitment to the mutual respect for and appreciation of people of all backgrounds, religious or otherwise. In doing so, we must also acknowledge those instances when we have not been true to this goal. Today, we reflect critically on our commitment to the inclusion and celebration of all people.

We acknowledge that hatred and fear have contributed to microaggressions, discrimination, and prejudices on our campus. We admit that at times, our individual and collective commitment to universal respect and understanding has lapsed. We know that there are many members of our student body that do not feel welcome in our larger Notre Dame family. Understanding these realities, we recommit ourselves as a community to the pursuit of inclusion and the celebration of human difference in all its forms.

To the University of North Carolina, we grieve this incredible tragedy and commit our support to your community. To our peer institutions, we hope that our shared commitment to these goals may have a substantial impact on the promotion of respect and understanding of all peoples in our respective campus communities. We pledge to continue to work to achieve these ends on our campus and hope that our commitment might serve as a catalyst for broader change across this country and around the world.

