

...We believe another way to protect our young people is to notice and address the impact this intense political period has had on children. Regardless of how an individual voted, we need to come together to acknowledge that any statements and gestures used to mock people with disabilities, individuals from other countries, and women have been highly inappropriate. Reports on increases in bullying and other unacceptable behavior in schools as well as hate crimes in communities are correlated with discriminatory language and actions the public witnessed during the presidential election campaign. We also are concerned about how some adults on both sides of the political aisle expressed their disagreement during the campaign and how they exercise a voice of dissent now. We never support the destruction of property or any type of violence. We call upon Wisconsin's government leaders and citizens regardless of their political affiliation to find common ground in helping to make schools and neighborhoods safe. It is our responsibility as faith leaders and the government to publicly decry any language or behavior to prevent our country from sanctioning discrimination. Children need to publicly hear from us.