



# The Society for the Study of Social Problems

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December 2, 2016

Dear SSSP Member,

In the wake of a very contentious and divisive U.S. presidential campaign and election, and in light of an increase in hate incidents and reports of infringements on faculty members' academic freedom on some campuses, we, on behalf of the Board of Directors, wish to reaffirm our commitment to the creation of a more just and diverse society. This election has served as a reminder that, despite gains from the civil, women's, and LGBTQ rights movements, significant cleavages continue to exist along racial, ethnic, religious, and gender lines, both in the United States and in other parts of the world. Our role as social scientists and educators has never been more important. The task before us is stated very clearly and succinctly in the SSSP By-Laws:

*The SSSP's stated purpose is to promote and protect sociological research and teaching on significant problems of social life and, particularly, to encourage the work of young sociologists; to stimulate the application of scientific method and theory to the study of vital social problems; to encourage problem-centered social research; to foster cooperative relations among persons and organizations engaged in the application of scientific sociological findings to the formulation of social policies; to foster higher quality of life, social welfare, and positive social relations in society and the global community and to undertake any activity related thereto or necessary or desirable for the accomplishment of the foregoing purposes.*

We would argue that as social justice scholars and activists we have a responsibility to continue the work of civil and human rights activists who preceded us. We must address instances of racism, xenophobia, religious bigotry, misogyny, and other social problems in ways that invite healthy and constructive dialog to gain resolutions of these problems. We must educate ourselves and others where and when we can, both in and outside of our classrooms and campuses. If you observe infringements on rights, freedoms, and expressions – your own or others' – we urge you to familiarize yourself with the appropriate processes on your campus or in your community to report in order to resolve these violations. Feel free to report these violations, especially if you encounter difficulties having them addressed, to the SSSP's Executive Officer, Héctor L. Delgado. We invite you as well to initiate and/or participate in a dialog on the Society's listserv - [http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/525/SSSP\\_Listserv/](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/525/SSSP_Listserv/).

Between November 9 and November 19, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) reported nearly 900 hate incidents (140 of which occurred on university campuses and another 183 at K-12 schools). If you or someone you know is a victim of a hate incident or if you observe one, it is important to report the incident to the appropriate authorities immediately. In addition to this, we suggest that you report these incidents to the SPLC - <https://www.splcenter.org/repothate> or to the Anti-Defamation League - <https://secure2.convio.net/adl/site/SPageNavigator/Report/Incident.html#.WD8zyuArLnA>.

Also, please keep in mind that if you wish to submit a resolution at the Montreal Annual Meeting next August, you should submit it to SSSP Vice President Valerie Leiter by June 1, 2017. If you do, please recommend an action and provide the contact information for the party or parties that the resolution recommends contacting, [http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/694/Call\\_for\\_Resolutions\\_/](http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/694/Call_for_Resolutions_/).


We wish you the best. Please feel free to contact us if you believe that we can be of assistance to you in some way. If our resources allow it, we will do our best to help.

The struggle continues.

Most sincerely,



Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.  
Executive Officer



Donileen R. Loseke, Ph.D.  
President, 2016-2017