

August 17, 2017

Dear SSW Community:

Our nation mourns as we see the violence from misdirected forces reach into our troubled past and threaten our human decency, civility, and hope.

At a time when we are desperately in search of solidarity, tolerance, inclusion, trust, humility, respect and all the values and virtues that sustain a peaceful nation, we are cloaked with the darkness of hatred, self-righteousness, and indignation.

Our soul requires light. It is the light generated from caring that restores our faith in our humanity and that illuminates our call for social justice. No light emerges from the proselytizing of exclusion, divisiveness, and destruction.

Our challenge is to search for light from goodness rather than evil since evil triumphs only when we allow goodness to become subordinate to it.

Dr. Robert M. Ortega, MSW, PhD  
The University of Michigan  
Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA), Chair  
Associate Professor, School of Social Work