

Open letter from your CNA board

Concordia neighbors:

Recent political discourse, demonstrations bordering on violence and reports of attacks on individuals – both verbal and physical – have increased tensions across the country and close to home in Portland. We, the undersigned Concordia Neighborhood Association board members, believe very strongly in ensuring this community is welcoming to all families.

We believe everyone should feel safe and welcome here in Concordia, and we hope no one in this community feels their personal safety is threatened.

We believe Concordia residents should encourage respectful and thoughtful dialogue on controversial issues and demonstrate mutual respect. Contributions by everyone in our community are what make Concordia neighborhood where we live and thrive in peace and harmony. Perhaps the strongest attribute of our community is our capacity to foster and celebrate diversity of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion and perspective.

If you are afraid, feel (or have experienced feeling) marginalized, believe your personal safety is threatened or think you are targeted, it is our hope that your neighbors and our community will not stand idly by. Perhaps you already feel safe to reach out to your neighbors for help and support.

If you see, hear or witness a neighbor being harassed or bullied, don't hesitate to step up and stand with your neighbor to ensure their personal safety is not threatened, while being careful to ensure you both remain safe. Call on authorities if you believe a crime is in progress.

If you have ideas for how to make – and keep – our community safe and welcoming, please share them with us.

You are always encouraged to contact your neighborhood association board for help and a listening ear. Contact any one of us with your thoughts.

Signed,

Your CNA Board of Directors:

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The community has your back

Help is available if you feel marginalized or threatened. Your neighbors and the Concordia Neighborhood Association Board of Directors have your back. So do plenty of community resources, like these:

- **211**: visit 211INFO.org/search-resources/ or dial 211 for listings (literally) from Anger Management to Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Advocacy Groups to Native American General Assistance to Refugee Resettlement Services to Youth Violence Prevention.
- **Adelante Mujeres**: 503.992.0078
- **American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon**: 503.227.3186
- **Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon**: 971.340.4861
- **Black Parent Initiative**: 503.284.8000
- **Fair Shot**: 503.383.9766