



## **MAINE COUNSELING ASSOCIATION**

*A State Branch of the American Counseling Association*

### **The Maine Counseling Association's statement regarding the 2017 Presidential election and subsequent events**

The Maine Counseling Association (MeCA), a state branch of the American Counseling Association, includes among its foundational principles promotion of respect for human dignity, honoring diversity, promotion of social justice, and nondiscrimination; these concepts are embedded throughout our professional code of ethics and bylaws. We are charged to help create safe spaces for our clients and students within which the practice of counseling may enhance the quality of life, and also to carry this collective responsibility beyond the confines of our workplaces into our communities.

With these core values and duties in mind, we are troubled and dismayed with comments made by President-elect Donald Trump during the election campaign regarding religious groups, women, immigrants, disabled people, and people of color. We are further disturbed with the substantial increase in reported incidents of bias-based harassment and violence directed toward members of these groups, and others (including members of the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/questioning community) in the days following the election. We will oppose any efforts to marginalize, oppress, discriminate against, or scapegoat any group of people, and we call upon the President-elect and all of our elected political leaders to vehemently do likewise.

We firmly support efforts to mend the rifts which have emerged among our citizenry. We stand ready to do our part as counseling professionals to bring about healing and protect the rights and dignity of all who inhabit our nation, and to partner with organizations, individuals, and political leaders who would do the same. We invite our elected representatives at all levels, local, state and national, to honor the diversity which makes us a great nation. Together, we must hold ourselves to account, insisting always to uphold human rights for all, and championing especially the vulnerable among us.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the MeCA Executive Board,

Tracy Corbin  
2016-2017 President  
Maine Counseling Association

*MeCA is a state branch of the American Counseling Association*

*Past-President – Stan Pelletier*

*President – Tracy Corbin*

*President-Elect – Nicholas Umphrey*