

### **The Hate Speech of the Republican Candidates'**

The Republican Party has drifted too far into attack mode for the health of American Democracy and the pluralistic society we pride America to be. America is not a nation based on a country of origin, a race or a religion; but a nation meant to stand for the principles of liberty and justice and for all. The unchecked rhetoric of the Republican-controlled House and the extremes of the Republican presidential candidates are a threat to the liberties we hold dear. They seek to redefine our nation in terms of religion, race and country of origin, and segregate all who do not meet up to their standards.

On immigration and the acceptance of refugees, the language of the Republican presidential candidates, which had been repugnant in the case of Donald Trump, crossed lines of decency, and became hate speech. What happened to the Statue of Liberty and the word on her tablet, which proclaim:

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,...

People recoil when reminded of America's opposition to accepting Jewish refugees in 1938 and 1939 fleeing Nazi Germany. We can't forget the politicians who fomented hatred by charging that the acceptance of Jewish refugees would welcome Communists and anarchists into America. Isn't this the same rhetoric we are now hearing from the Republican Candidates about the Syrian refugees? And what about Donald Trump's call to force the registration of Muslims. Isn't that reminiscent of America's worst sin of forcing Japanese Americans into camps during World War II? Doesn't it remind us of Nazi Germany's registration of Jews.

The inability of the Republican Party to police itself and censor the incitement of hatred hurts America. Anyone that believes he can later contain and manage the irrational forces of hatred are greatly mistaken. People pushed to being irrational cannot be reasoned back to sanity.

Moreover, the Republicans only recognize Trump as a threat because they believe he can't win a general election. They fail to see the deeper threat the whole party faces by pandering to hatred. The Republican Party is no longer the Grand Old Party that preserved the Union and freed the slaves. Now, it has become the party the party of isolation and segregation.

We cannot stand aside and let the Republican candidates' hate speech continue to divide our nation. In a letter from the Birmingham jail, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote that evil wins not because of the hatred of the bigots, but because of the silence of the friends of Liberty and Justice. We are the Friends of Liberty and Justice that Dr. King spoke of. We cannot be silent and let evil win.