



A Resolution FR-007
Presented by Senator Barry, Senator Berdux and Senator Reynolds
Of the
College of Charleston Student Government Association
On this Sixteenth day of March, 2010.

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Purpose: To affirm the support of the Student Government Association for acceptance and diversity in all of its forms and to categorically condemn the hate speech espoused by the Westboro Baptist Church and beyond.

Whereas, The College of Charleston has a robust and ever improving policy of non-discrimination and has committed itself to diversity on campus and throughout the Charleston community.

Whereas, The Westboro Baptist Church, long known to be at the forefront of vitriolic hate speech and confrontation in America, will be coming to the College of Charleston to demonstrate at the Jewish Studies Center before the students of the College.

Whereas, The Westboro Baptists have a record of extreme homophobia, stating, “We display large, colorful signs containing Bible words and sentiments, including: GOD HATES FAGS, FAGS HATE GOD, AIDS CURES FAGS, THANK GOD FOR AIDS, FAGS BURN IN HELL... etc... It's NOT OK to be gay. It will damn the soul, destroy the life, and doom any nation that tolerates such evil. God Hates Fags is a profound theological statement, which America needs more than it needs oxygen or bread.”

Whereas, The Westboro Baptists have a record of racism targeted at the African-American community, stating, “Anybody babbling about 'multicultural affairs' and 'celebrating diversity' is a propagandist for the militant sodomite agenda... Westboro Baptists will picket this black obfuscator, in religious protest and warning. Being black won't get you to Heaven.”

Whereas, The Westboro Baptists have a record of Islamophobic speech, stating, “So what if our guys flushed copies of the Quran down the toilet? We hope they did. They probably did; We hope they flush more. Mohammed was a demon-possessed whoremonger and pedophile who contrived a 300-page work of Satanic fiction: The Qu’ran!”

Whereas, The Westboro Baptists have a record of extreme anti-Semitic speech, stating, “Whatever righteous cause the Jewish victims of the 1930s-40s Nazi Holocaust had, (probably miniscule, compared to the Jewish Holocausts against Middle Passage Blacks, African Americans and Christians -- including the bloody persecution of Westboro Baptist Church by Topeka Jews in the 1990s), has been drowned in sodomite semen. American taxpayers are financing this unholy

46 monument to Jewish mendacity and greed and to filthy fag lust...Homosexuals
47 and Jews dominated Nazi Germany...just as they now dominate this doomed
48 U.S.A.”
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50 **Whereas,** The Westboro Baptists have a record of anti-American hate, stating, “Thank God
51 for 3,000 dead Americans! Yes! Thank God for Sept. 11 and 3,000 dead sodomite
52 Americans in 2001. God sent the Muslim planes to destroy fag New York's twin
53 towers and hurl 3,000 vile Americans into Hell.”
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55 **Whereas,** Negative reification through violent hate speech invariably leads to violent acts,
56 both against national figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Medgar Evers,
57 Harvey Milk and Robert Kennedy, as well as average Americans, such as Harry
58 Simms, Emmett Till and Matthew Shepard.
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60 **Whereas,** Westboro Baptist Church founder, Fred Phelps, has been convicted four times for
61 assault, battery, threats, trespassing, disorderly conduct, and contempt of court, as
62 well as having been disbarred for conducting a week long cross-examination of
63 his defendant, displaying excessive “repetition, badgering, innuendo, belligerence,
64 irrelevant and immaterial matter, evidencing only a desire to hurt and destroy the
65 defendant,” followed by perjury for supplying a false affidavit, with the Kansas
66 Supreme Court stating that he displayed “little regard for the ethics of his
67 profession.”
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69 **Whereas,** There are only an estimated 71 members of the Westboro Baptist Church’s
70 Congregation, with 60 of them being related to church founder, Fred Phelps.
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72 **Whereas,** The teachings of the Westboro Baptist Church represent a wholesale
73 bastardization of faith, perverting the teachings of the Bible and running contrary
74 to all recognized purposes of the major global religions, as illustrated by the
75 Grand Mufti of Egypt, who states, “The universal teachings of Abraham say we
76 should all live together in peace and love,” and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, “If
77 you look just at differences—forget what is purpose—there are big differences.
78 But if you look what is purpose of these traditions, no matter how many
79 differences, all carry the message of the importance of love, compassion,
80 forgiveness, tolerance. These are fundamental values of human beings. It
81 becomes very clear, all these different philosophies simply a different approach,
82 but same goal, to create better human being.”
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84 **Whereas,** There is a theological consensus on the persecution of others, ranging from the
85 Jewish Talmud, “One should choose to be among the persecuted, rather than the
86 persecutors,” (Baba Kamma 93a) to the Christian Bible, “Love your enemies and
87 pray for those who persecute you,” (Matthew 5:43-44) to the Prophet
88 Muhammad, “Let there be no injury and no revenge,” and the Buddha, “Hatred
89 will never put an end to hatred; violence will never put an end to violence. Only
90 love can end hatred, and only non-violence and gentleness can end violence.”
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92 **Whereas,** The actions of the Westboro Baptist Church violate the cross-cultural universality
93 of the “Golden Rule,” as illustrated in Christianity, “In everything, do to others as
94 you would have them do to you,” (Matthew 7:12) in Buddhism, “Treat not others
95 in ways that you yourself would find hurtful,” (Udana-Vargas 5.18) in Hinduism,
96 “Do not to others what would cause pain if done to you,” (Mahabharata 5:1517)
97 in Islam, “None of you truly believes, until he desires for his brother what he
98 desires for himself,” and in Judaism, “What is hateful to you, do not do to your
99 neighbor. This is the whole Torah. All the rest is commentary,” (Talmud
100 Shabbat 31a).

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102 **Whereas,** All humanity has intrinsic value, regardless of race, creed, gender, nationality or
103 orientation, as shown by the Bhagavad Gita, “I look upon all creatures equally;
104 none are less dear to me and none more dear,” (9.29) and Rabbi David Rosen,
105 “Every human being is of inestimable value, their life and their dignity. For in the
106 image of God he made the human being,” as well a duty to learn from our
107 collective diversity, as shown by the Qur’an, “O humankind, we have created
108 from one pair, a man and a woman, and made you into tribes and nations so that
109 you may know one another.” (49:13).

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111 **Whereas,** No organized religion can lay claim to monopoly over the Truth, as illustrated by
112 Jalal al-Din Rumi, “I went to the church seeking God and I didn’t find it, then I
113 went to synagogue and I did not find God either there, then I went to the mosque
114 and I did not find God there. Then I went home and I found God in my heart.”
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116 **Therefore:** BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
117 ASSOCIATION IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, THE FOLLOWING:
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119 **Section I:** The Student Government Association, assembled, affirms its continued and
120 unconditional support for diversity, acceptance and tolerance towards all people,
121 with no restrictions, limits or qualifications.
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123 **Section II:** While recognizing the right to freedom of speech and the freedom to assemble,
124 the Student Government Association, assembled, condemns the actions, past and
125 present, of the Westboro Baptist Church, and encourages their congregation and
126 leaders to reevaluate the implications of their hateful speech and its relation to
127 scripture.
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129 **Section III:** THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT (UPON PASSAGE) BY THE
130 STUDENT SENATE SITTING IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE
131 SIGNATURE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT.
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John M. Capelle
President of the Student Body