



ARCHITECTS / DESIGNERS / PLANNERS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**ADPSR NATIONAL**

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American Institute of Architects  
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Re: Steps in response to the recent election and AIA's response

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December 6, 2016

Dear AIA National,

Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR) is an independent non-profit organization established in 1981 with the mission of promoting peace, environmental protection, ecological building, social justice, and the development of healthy communities. We are a past winner of the AIA Collaborative Achievement Award and a recognized voice for human rights in architecture.

We were dismayed at AIA's initial statement after the election of Mr. Trump to the U.S. Presidency. WE attended the AIASF listening session – and have joined in many online discussions in response to the statement. We believe that in addition to the apologies that CEO Ivy and President Davidson have offered, AIA should take action to demonstrate the values foregrounded in the apology statements. Specifically, we recommend:

- 1. Human Rights.** We have a president-elect who is on record in favor of torture. Architects must not abet human rights violations or be suborned into projects counter to health, safety and welfare. AIA National should Adopt ADPSR's proposed Ethics Code Rule to prohibit the design of spaces that will violate human rights and clarify the limits of acceptable practice to professionals and the public. ([http://adpsr.org/home/ethics\\_reform](http://adpsr.org/home/ethics_reform))
- 2. Discrimination and Harassment.** We have emerged from a campaign that vilified muslims, people of color, women LGTB people and other minorities, and actively scapegoated undocumented immigrants in this country. AIA and our professions deeply value diversity and inclusion, but our values are under threat: everyone from firm owners to junior designers may be subject to increased discrimination, harassment, and even threats of deportation. AIA should foreground our values by providing a centralized source of legal advice and support for members and professionals facing deportation, discrimination, or harassment whether as employers, employees, or in other roles, for instance by partnering with organizations such as the American Immigration Lawyers Association ([www.aila.org](http://www.aila.org)) to develop know-your-rights fact sheets, a hotline phone number, and other resources.
- 3. Sustainability.** The majority party of both houses of Congress, the President, and a majority of state Governments refuse to recognize the reality of human-caused climate change, making the prospect for government leadership on sustainability poor even as climate change accelerates and the window to respond to it shrinks. AIA should continue to educate members and the profession about design strategies needed for sustainability, to lobby on behalf of sustainability, and to support stronger energy and green building codes. As a further

demonstration of AIA's commitment, AIA should require a minimum level of energy performance for all AIA design awards; the public and the profession will lose faith in AIA if it celebrates buildings that make the climate crisis worse rather than better.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Raphael Sperry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Raphael Sperry, LEED AP, WELL AP  
President, Architects / Designers / Planners for Social Responsibility - ADPSR