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Trending @ RWU Law: Deborah Gonzalez's Post: Why I Marched... 1-25-2017

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January 25, 2017

Deborah Gonzalez's Post

Why I Marched...

Posted by Deborah Gonzalez on 01/25/2017 at 04:14 PM



I marched for women's rights.

I marched for immigrants' rights.

I marched for equality for all.

These were but a few reasons why I marched in the Women's March on Washington.

I was impressed by the diversity of the people who were in D.C. They were old and young, disabled and healthy, white, yellow, and brown. They were male, female and transgender, straight and gay. They came from far and wide -- from California, Maine, Connecticut, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Alabama, to name a few. They rode in buses to D.C. from just a few hours to, for some, upwards of 14 hours. They came to participate in what has become a historic event.



I was impressed by the level of solidarity. Even when we were so many in the streets, walking shoulder to shoulder, in chain, so not to lose our companions, and we would bump into one another, people still smiled and said “no worries.”

Their signs were incredibly creative, with messages ranging from “Respect My Existence Or Expect Resistance” and “One Body, One Mind, One Power” to “Keep Your Little Hands Off My Civil Rights” -- and the not-so-subtle, “F*** Trump.” My favorite was “Humpty Trumpty Enough With the Wall.”

Men and women alike wore pink pussy hats. We all used the men's and women's bathrooms at the same time, without concern for sex, because we are all just human.



My sister Tammy, my daughter Britney, my friend (and adjunct faculty member) Ondine Galvez Sniffin, and I marched from about 10:00 a.m. until about 6:00 p.m. We started where the buses parked (RFK Stadium) and walked to Independence and 3rd. We walked through a residential neighborhood where many of the residents were outside their homes cheering us on. One family with a little boy (about four years old) and a little girl (about one) were outside, where the little boy held a sign that said: "I March For My Sister."

Many held signs in solidarity with the march.

“
TELL ME WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE
”

“
THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!
”



We heard inspiring speakers such as Ashley Judd, Michael Moore, Scarlett Johansson -- and a little girl named Sophia who talked about her undocumented immigrant parents, and how little girls like her should not lose hope.

Then we marched to the Washington Monument in drizzling rain, alongside a group of Native American Indians who sang for equality. From the Monument we marched onward to the White House chanting a variety of chants, such as "everyone is welcome here; immigrants are welcome here." Much of the time we marched in silence, but most importantly we marched peacefully.

Some say this was all a waste of time, and that the millions of people that marched nationwide accomplished nothing.

I say: You are wrong!



We showed our solidarity with those who can't represent themselves and those that can; we showed that we are stronger in numbers. We showed that if our voices aren't heard and taken into account during the next four years, *he* may not be there to serve another four. We showed our own Senators and Congressmen that if they don't listen to us, two years are not far away. We showed up in much larger numbers than ever before!

That is something and not nothing.

Although my feet, back and hips hurt from all the walking and standing and chanting,

I felt empowered.