

FIGHTING THREAT OF HATE SPEECH, RESISTING HATE SPEECH

WHEREAS, hate speech is speech that expresses or incites hatred toward people or a group of people on the basis of some aspect of their identity; and

WHEREAS, hate speech is considered in the context of it being used against people on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexism or homophobia; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that hate speech incites violence; and

WHEREAS, people that are more exposed to hate speech are more likely to commit suicide; and

WHEREAS, the abundance of hate speech against a person or a group of people can cause a “dehumanizing effect” that lessens our empathy for other people; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Poverty Law Center reports there are 892 hate groups operating in the United States and about 191,000 hate crimes happen on U.S. soil per year; and

WHEREAS, hate speech is not free speech when it threatens the safety and fundamental rights of a less privileged group.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OPEIU will stand against fascism, racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, sexism and homophobia – against every kind of hatred and every form of politics that seeks to divide working people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OPEIU will stand for the idea that every person is of equal dignity – that we are a country ruled by the principle of one person one vote, not one dollar one vote; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that OPEIU will work to urge state and national legislatures to pass laws to curb hate speech and the terror tactics exhibited by fascism.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019