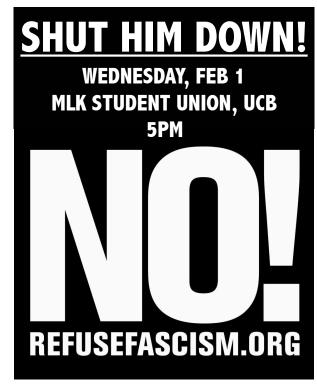
## Milo is a tool of Trump's fascist government:

He has no right to speak at Cal or anywhere else!

Milo Yiannopoulos, mouthpiece of Trump-Pence, is coming to Cal this Wednesday as part of his "Dangerous Faggot" campus tour. Milo rose to fame voicing disdain for human rights, vicious nationalism, xenophobia, and misogyny, and unapologetic support for Donald Trump, which he claims he is allowed to spew in public because of "free speech". He claims to be "dangerous" to a "stifling liberal culture" of "political correctness." He tries to leverage his identity (that he is gay and has a Black boyfriend) as some kind of excuse. In fact, he is a fascist, and students at campuses along his tour have righteously fought, and sometimes succeeded, in shutting down his speaking gigs.

At UC Berkeley professors, and students and professors at campuses across the country, have raised that what Milo is doing is hate speech, which causes direct harm to students and campus life, and that this is not "free speech" and should not be allowed. The UC Berkeley administration has not fully responded to this, and is letting Milo's speech go forward. This is wrong. But there are even larger issues at stake:

1. People who protest Milo are not opposing free speech, they are opposing a fascist America, which is the actual, real, and gravely serious threat to basic rights of speech, assembly, and intellectual life. Milo



Yiannopoulos is an editor for *Breitbart*. He is a tool of a government that accuses the press of being "fake news" when they deviate from or criticize the Trump lies; that has already begun criminalizing protest, demonizing dissent, and attacking science. Trump has advocated severe penalties for flag burning, which is protected speech. What Milo is working for is *not* free speech, but to normalize, legitimize, and help consolidate the Trump-Pence regime – which is already marching down the path of crushing all dissent and all ideas that oppose it.

2. Students who oppose Milo are strengthening the role of universities as places where dissent, critical thinking and the search for truth can flourish. Milo's "bad boy" attack on "political correctness" is a ruse. In fact, Milo & the government he serves don't like the "political correctness" that has some currency in universities today because they want to replace it with their own, fascist, state-enforced "political correctness." This is a government that opposes science, and openly discards facts and then defends its lies as "alternative facts." In under a week, they've moved to wipe out all mention of climate science & climate data from the Environmental Protection Agency's website! Legitimizing Milo's tour is part of changing universities and intellectual life and science to serve a fascist order. Students who fight to shut down Milo strengthen the struggle against this order and strengthen dissent, critical thinking and genuine intellectual inquiry.

Think of what is going on in the world - just this past week, this government has banned refugees, attacked Muslim immigrants, green-lighted the destructive Dakota Access Pipeline, slammed shut access to abortion for women all over the world, and threatened both the press and the UN to fall into line or face consequences. Think of what would go on inside that room February 1 at UC Berkeley, if it is allowed to go down. UCB, birthplace of the Free Speech Movement, tolerates a fascist rally, held in the name of "free speech." Inside that room, racists and woman-haters will be screaming "Build that wall!," laughing at rape statistics and sharing ICE phone numbers to aid the government with deportations – Milo is seeking to use the campuses to serve a larger fascist transformation of America and its entire culture. Students are right to SHUT IT DOWN because yes, it's dangerous. Fascism is dangerous to humanity. And you, if you oppose this with everything you've got, will have the honor of being dangerous to fascism.

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## A Call to Professors, Students and All in Academia: Starting This Semester... Make the University a Zone of Resistance to the Fascist Trump Regime and the Coming Assault on the Academy

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Historically, the university has been the institution where dissent and critical thinking have had the greatest initiative in society. It has helped incubate social movements—like antiwar and civil rights, women's liberation and environmental. This vital role must be defended from fascist assault—and is needed more than ever.

The weekend of January 21st, millions in the U.S. and around the world marched to register their revulsion at the Trump-Pence regime. That same weekend the Trump-Pence regime pushed aggressively forward with its fascist agenda: an inaugural speech of chauvinistic and war-mongering "America first," then attacks on the press, followed by ominous declarations that this will be a "law and order" administration. What will come tomorrow?

The Trump-Pence regime threatens to bring catastrophe to humanity. We must expose the truth about the Trump regime, build resistance, and continue to demand its impeachment and removal.

We call on fellow academics and intellectuals to join the millions in the U.S. and around the world who have taken to the streets to oppose hate, racism, sexism, other forms of intolerance, dishonesty, and the authoritarianism of the Trump regime and its allies. Faculty and students must be encouraged to speak freely, in and out of class, about the dangerous character of the Trump regime. We must stand in solidarity with professors "named" and threatened for their progressive or radical views by the rightwing "Professor Watchlist" and other enforcers of the new McCarthyism.

The university must become a zone of resistance—a site of "NO" to fascism in America—and a haven of dissent, critical thinking, and free speech... and for upholding civil and human rights and liberties... and fostering society-wide resistance to this regime.

## This semester:

- Organize teach-ins and walk-ins, inviting students and others to come and speak up. Create new spaces to address this social emergency.
- Classes and curriculum should reflect that we are facing a social emergency. Classes can become forums to discuss everything from what fascism is and the lessons of history, as in Germany... to Trump and the attack on civil liberties, women and LGBTQ, Black lives, immigrants, and the environment... to what this fascist agenda bodes for the university itself. Put "NO!" posters on blackboards and windows—and make them available to colleagues and students.
- Be part of marches, demonstrations, and a visible presence on the streets and other public places.
- Support and join with students who are organizing and engaging in resistance to the Trump regime.
   Stand with immigrant and Muslim students and professors, as well as outspoken professors, who are targeted and attacked. The movement for "sanctuary campuses" must expand, and pledges by administrations to protect undocumented students must be upheld no matter the pressures and orders.
- The university community must find the ways to make common cause with, and invite into the community, people from all of walks of life who are resisting.

In these dark times, the resistance we mount can contribute to bringing a far better world into being.

Initial Signers:

Christopher Chase-Dunn, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, University of California, Riverside\*
Fidel Fajardo-Acosta, Professor of English, Creighton University\*
David J. Harris, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Harvard University\*
Ivan Huber, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Fairleigh Dickinson University\*
Raymond Lotta, Political economist, writer for Revolution/revcom.us
Ceasar McDowell, Professor, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT\*
Reverend John T. Pawlikowski, Professor of Social Ethics, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago\*
Bruce Price, Harvard Medical School\*
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