

May 3, 2024

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

The USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work is committed to upholding the values of compassion, empathy, and respect for all individuals, regardless of background, belief, or circumstance. Recent debates and discussions across university campuses, including those related to freedom of speech, have highlighted the complex issues our society faces today. We recognize the impact these broader discussions may have on our students, faculty, and staff.

Our professions — social work and nursing — are built on the foundations of care, justice, and the inherent dignity of every person. In these challenging times, we reaffirm our commitment to these principles. We encourage open, respectful dialogue and critical engagement, fostering an environment where all voices can be heard and valued. It is through understanding and collaboration that we can contribute to peace and healing.

At our school, we are dedicated to training social work and nursing professionals who are equipped to address complex societal challenges with skill, dedication, and a deep sense of ethical responsibility. Now more than ever, we must channel our energy and efforts into the actions and roles for which we have been trained, harnessing our professional skills to advocate for equitable and compassionate care, and uphold the rights and dignity of all.

We stand with all those who are affected by the recent debates on pressing global and local issues. Together, we strive to make a positive impact on the world, guided by our professional values and dedication to social justice and human rights.

Sincerely,
Vassilios Papadopoulos
Interim Dean

