

Dear Olympia Indivisible Community,

Olympia Indivisible Steering Committee wishes to thank our membership for volunteering and turning out in such large numbers to the Hands Off! Replace, Rebuild, and Reclaim! Rally on April 5th at the Capitol. We were part of a powerful nationwide message to the current administration by millions of people. It also warmed our hearts seeing so many members in person whom we've only seen on Zoom.

We also wish to clarify OI's role in the planning of the rally and, more particularly, as concerns an event which caught us off guard and which brought distress to some of our members.

Although OI was a supporting organization for this event, the lead organizer and decision-maker was Evergreen Resistance (ER), a local 50501 group. OI donated/loaned materials and provided de-escalation training and volunteers for the event, while trying to respect ER's protocols. ER developed the content of the event independently and we had neither say-so about nor insight into ER's choice of speakers or the content of their speeches.

The focus by the rally's final speaker on Israel and Gaza was a startling departure from the preceding speeches, which were aligned with Indivisible National's Hands Off! campaign and—to the best of our understanding—50501 National's Replace, Rebuild, and Reclaim! campaign. Both organizations were calling on participants to unify against what is happening across our nation as a result of the Trump administration's corrupt and illegal dismantling of democracy, checks and balances, federal programs and services, and democracy as a whole.

The abrupt shift of focus by the final speaker from the domestic to the international scene, her failure to acknowledge the suffering on both sides, and the fact that her speech was followed by a chant that triggers deep fear for some in our community, left a number of rally-goers, including several members of OI, upset and shaken. If one of these rally-goers is you, we are deeply sorry.

In any grassroots organization, trustworthiness is key. It's clear to the OI Steering Committee that going forward, we need to ensure better communication and more say-so when collaborating with outside organizations. We have worked very hard over the past eight years to earn our members' confidence and we acknowledge that the April 5th rally, while mostly wonderful and exciting, eroded that trust. We will do our level best to not let this happen again.