



AAG

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of GEOGRAPHERS

Dear AAG Members,

As our nation continues to digest the outcome of this year's contentious election campaign and the upheaval we have seen in many communities as a result, we wanted to reach out to you in a spirit of shared concern. As geographers, we believe wholeheartedly in the values of free, thoughtful expression and mutual respect.

Acting within its objectives and 501(c)3 non-profit status, the AAG has established a strong track record of effectively engaging federal and state policies that run counter to our shared ideals, and we will continue to do so. Our Washington, DC, AAG policy office works hard for our members every day, often in concert with other academic disciplines – including through organizations such as AAAS, COSSA, CNSF, ACLS, AGI, CESSE, AAU and others – to support and promote geography, science and academic freedom.

The AAG opposes policies that demean and exclude individuals or groups based on gender, race, sexuality, religion, or ethnicity; trample on the virtues of academic and scientific freedom; or ignore geographic research and the consensus of the scientific community for the sake of political expediency.

As we have done during the past decade, the AAG will continue to monitor, intervene, and update you on key issues that have a clear impact on geography or in which our discipline can serve as a valued stakeholder in shaping viewpoints and policy outcomes. In turn, we also encourage you to continue to be leaders in your communities; to speak up for the marginalized; and to reach out to each other and to us as the need arises.

Our efforts at the AAG to effect positive change can be magnified greatly by your actions in your own communities and through your engagement with your Congressional representatives across the political spectrum, and by using your expertise to inform public debate—whether that means holding teach-ins and educational forums, publishing op-eds in your local newspapers, or participating in other forms of media as relevant issues arise.

There is no doubt that the voice of geography will be needed as our country charts a way forward. Coincidentally, a major theme of our upcoming AAG Annual Meeting in Boston is “Mainstreaming Human Rights in Geography and the AAG.” We welcome your participation in the many sessions and discussions of this AAG meeting theme, which now may also provide a starting point for dialogue among our 9000 attendees in Boston on topics related to human rights, social justice, and thought required to formulate and implement policies that serve to enhance the lives of all.

We look forward to working with all of our members as we navigate the next few years together.

Douglas Richardson
Executive Director

Glen MacDonald
President

Derek Alderman
Vice President

Sarah Bednarz
Past President

American Association of Geographers
1710 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009
[Email us](#) | 202-234-1450 | [Visit our website](#)