

The 47th Presidency: How Do We Move Forward?

The outcome of this election speaks to the state and temperature of our country. To elect a convicted felon and a man who has attacked our democratic values is frightening. In the words of a colleague, the people in this country re-elected #45 “with eyes wide open.”

Vice President Kamala Harris ran an excellent campaign despite being confronted with misogyny, racism, xenophobia, and lies from the mouth of a man whose campaign attempted to create a sea of fear for voters. Her resume, her credentials, her qualifications, and the excitement she created within her base speak volumes. I feel for her. She was more qualified than any Presidential candidate that we have had for decades.

It is clear that our country is not ready to vote for a woman. There are forces in place that will do all that they can to ensure that this does not happen. We saw the role that gender played in Hillary Clinton’s campaign and in the case of Vice President Harris, we cannot discount the fact that both gender and race played a significant role in the outcome.

The outcome of this election signals a day of reckoning in our country, is traumatizing for many, and confirms the stark reality that racism and sexism are part of America’s DNA. We are still reeling from the backlash that erupted after two terms of former President Barack Obama. Despite this we must recognize that the struggle for freedom is never-ending, and it is important that we move forward with intentional and deliberate speed.

- We have to be prepared to fight an onslaught of acts that will further erode our democracy and freedom.
- We have to educate our youth and the community about the perils of being apathetic regarding the role they play in safe-guarding our freedoms.
- We have to strengthen our ties with our elected officials and community leaders.

- We have to, in the words of scholar and public intellectual Dr. Eddie Glaude, become
“the leaders we are looking for.”

Dr. Brenda M. Greene is a scholar and literary activist.