

College Educated Women's Strong Opinions on President Trump

Hannah Ferrara | Contributing Writer | February 3rd, 2025

Educated women are essential to this country. These women are here to speak on the fears, feelings, and anxieties that have come into their lives since Donald J. Trump was inaugurated.

The first thing that you see when you click and open the link to The White House website is our newly elected and inaugurated president, Donald J. Trump. Alongside his picture, is the quote “Every single day I will be fighting for you with every breath in my body. I will not rest until we have delivered the strong, safe, and prosperous America that our children deserve and that you deserve. This will truly be the golden age of America.”

But who is the “you” that he is fighting for, and is it truly what we ‘deserve’?”

Let's check the facts from the White House's website. Here are some of the things that Donald J. Trump has done in the short time since being inaugurated as our 47th president of the United States.

The recent presidential order that was indoctrinated on January 21st of this year reads as this: “It is the policy of the United States to protect the civil rights of all Americans and to promote individual initiative, excellence, and hard work. I therefore order all executive departments and agencies (agencies) to terminate all discriminatory and illegal preferences, mandates, policies, programs, activities, guidance, regulations, enforcement actions, consent orders, and requirements. I further order all agencies to enforce our longstanding civil-rights laws and to combat illegal private-sector DEI preferences, mandates, policies, programs, and activities.”

In other words, the U.S. government wants to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and given opportunities based on their skills and efforts. In efforts to achieve that, all government departments have since been ordered to stop any policies that give “special treatments” to people based on identity.

A cybersecurity major who is graduating this May, Ashley Bekondo, fears the effects of repealing DEI on a personal level. “As a cybersecurity and networks major, I am in a field that is heavily male dominant. The removal of DEI initiatives truly does concern me, especially being that I identify with two underrepresented groups within my

profession: I am a woman, and I'm African-American. It's hard to imagine that something that provides equal opportunity and inclusivity to underrepresented people is being made to be something so negative."

Then there are Trump's new policies and repeals on immigration and birthright citizenship status. President Trump's new birthright citizenship policy is now changing the rules for who gets automatic U.S. citizenship at birth. Previously, the Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship to anyone born in the U.S., as long as they were subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Thirty days after this executive order was put into place, some children will no longer get automatic citizenship if their mother was in the U.S. illegally, and the father is also not a U.S. citizen or green card holder.

Chloe Schumacher, who is working toward a masters in special education, said she feels terrified. "We have fought for years as a country to get where we are, and it just feels like we're going backward in time," she said. "Our country was founded on people coming here from all over and were watching it get completely sucked away. It should be so simple to think and care about others and those around you. We're watching the ones who truly make our country great get torn down, lives diminished; all because of the terrible things that certain political figures say."

Cassandra Stevens, who will receive her degree in criminal justice at the University of New Haven in the next year, is experiencing the same fears. "I am scared for the immigrants of my city," said Stevens. "New York City is basically run by immigrants. They do the jobs that no one else is willing to do. They get their hands dirty, work eighty hours a week, bust their asses to survive in this country; and all of a sudden the world is painting them as criminals. Part of my job at the moment is to watch out for border control vans. My undocumented coworkers are constantly fearing for their safety now. Even though they are the hardest workers and some of the kindest people I know, there are some people who still see them as just immigrants and animals. It makes me sick."

The next actions that President Trump has taken tie in with the repeal of DEI regulations and target a very specific group of people: the LGBTQIA+ community. The first executive order targets transgender individuals. Overall, the executive order pushes against policies that recognize gender identity as a legitimate basis for rights and protection. This order is the start of a larger political debate about gender rights and

biological sex; which directly targets non-binary and transgender individuals and their rights within major parts of society like sports, education, and healthcare.

Stevens has even more fears for a community that she connects with on a personal level.

“I’m scared for the queer community,” she said. “Trump has already banned LGBTQIA+ and Black Lives Matter flags from being hung by businesses, and he is working to ban transgender people from joining the military. People tell me I am being dramatic when I say that the queer community is under attack, but no one realizes that these things happen slowly. THIS is how it all starts. Have we learned nothing from history?”

Malia Downey, who will receive her degree in severe special education this May, identifies as a lesbian.

“I am scared, to be honest,” Downey said “I am scared about the discussion of overturning Obergefell vs. Hodges, the right to same-sex marriage, because that is my life. To think it could only be legal for ten years and then it is over is tragic to me. I feel anxious when I wake up every day now that he has entered the office because it feels like an attack on my life and the others around me. The country is going to become more and more unsafe by the day.”

As you can see, we have only discussed few actions of many that President Trump has made since being inaugurated. These are issues that are touching the lives of those who have worked tirelessly to achieve their dreams and contribute to a society that accepts and appreciates them. As we move forward, it is essential that we not only hear these voices but also truly listen to them. The journey ahead is going to be a long one that requires all of us in society to do our best and engage with the best intentions for a nation that fights for *all* of its people - not just some. Thank you for listening to our stories.