



46

This afternoon, along with millions of other Americans—and millions more across the planet—I'm celebrating the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as the 46th President and Vice President-elect of the United States.

To say that I am relieved would be a gross understatement. Ever since Donald Trump announced his bid for the presidency by pointedly “othering” persons born outside the United States or who identify as Muslim, I have feared the dividing impact of his words. And, just as I had anticipated, President Trump did his best to instill fear and hatred of humans who are “Other.” Never in my lifetime of nearly sixty-three years have I ever experienced a more divisive political leader.

Even more, as a proud woman who happens to be transgender, I watched as the Trump Administration diligently worked to marginalize transgender Americans. I had feared that a second Trump term would result in the total erasure of trans humans from public life. Thankfully, that fear has now evaporated.

Yet, with 70+ million Americans voting for a second Trump term, it's clear that so much work is needed to heal this wonderful country of ours. I know that Joe and Kamala, and many others, will engage in that work.

I, too, will work to heal America. It's something I'll be committed to until my last breath.

Regardless of whether you're “Red” or “Blue” or even “Bernie,” I care about you. Together, we can find a pathway that allows our children and grandchildren to thrive in harmony and with inclusivity, regardless of visible or invisible differences.

In the end, isn't that really what America aspires to? Together, we can make that a reality!

ellie