



Dear AAUW-VA Members,

The morning after election day, Black Americans (mostly young) in states across the country, including Virginia, began receiving racist texts from an anonymous sender. The messages were designed to upset the recipients, and we know from media and our friends that it did. Though the wording was stupid and crude, the hate behind them was real.

They were disturbing because, first, most texts named the recipient. Sometimes full names, some with first name and first initial of last name. Second, the scope points to an organized effort, possibly one with resources.

Law enforcement agencies are investigating the crime and wireless providers are working to block the numbers. The texts appear to have been routed through an email server. They have been traced to an encrypted virtual private network originating in another country, but the network was “masking” the sender, who could be anywhere.

We AAUW members are wondering what we can do. You may be thinking that you are just *one* person. But you *are* one person. Here’s what we suggest:

- If you speak with someone who received one of these texts, please ask them to report it [here](#).
- Help spread the word. Feel free to share this email with other allies.
- Inform yourself: Here’s a [link](#) to more information from the Southern Poverty Law Center. Other resources are listed below.

Thank you for reading this,

Lane Stone, AAUW-VA President

Meg Tuccillo, Co-Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Erica Brown-Meredith, Co-Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Sources:

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/09/us/racist-texts-black-people-investigation-what-we-know/index.html>

<https://www.splcenter.org/presscenter/splc-condemns-racist-text-sent-young-people-across-country>

### **AAUW of Virginia**

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