

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nate, at one point in time, the Co-Chair of DSA San Diego. During that time, I engaged in behaviors with a member that were abusive, manipulative, and constitute sexual harassment. This member--who will be henceforth referred to as the original reporting person (ORP)--subsequently went to the harassment grievance officer (HGO) to inform them of my behavior, telling the HGO to watch for those behaviors from me in the chapter. Upon learning of how my behaviors were impacting the ORP, members of the Revolutionary Marxist Caucus (RevMarx)--a chapter caucus which I was a member of--filed a formal grievance with the HGO concerning my behavior.

Prior to this incident, the ORP and I prior to this incident shared a close friendship. As the relationship developed I developed a possessiveness and jealousy over the friendship that was not healthy. By now, this issue has become a public issue. The ORP is a private person and didn't want this issue to be a public one. I was not sensitive enough to the ORP's want and need for privacy and following these issues becoming public, the ORP felt ashamed and embarrassed and left the chapter; for this I am sorry.

I engaged in unhealthy and negative behaviors with the Revolutionary Marxist Caucus generally. These behaviors include:

- Giving the impression, and sometimes outright saying that my way is always the right way
 - Being boastful about the things I was right about and not letting the issue go
 - Being aggressive with other members about ideas I felt strongly about
 - Engaging in gossip and shit talking other members of the chapter
 - Monopolizing conversations and not giving others a chance to speak
 - Discussing/planning to weaponize organs of the chapter against another member for perceived wrongs
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None of these items are comradely ways of engaging and I engaged in all of them. For that, I am sorry. There has been much talk about my behaviors in this situation and their connection to the author Robert Greene.

Robert Greene's books are in no small part about manipulation for acquisition of power. I often discussed use cases for Robert Greene's ideas and at least on one occasion planned to use them but was stopped by the HGO process. My actions constitute a betrayal. Many of you trusted me and saw me as your comrade and I betrayed that trust.

I've been seeing a psychiatrist for my ADHD. Following my fallout with the chapter, I have been discussing the events that caused this with my psychiatrist as well as some rough interactions I have had with the mentors in the HGO process. After hearing what had happened with the ORP, and the kind of interactions I was having with the HGO mentors, my psychiatrist diagnosed me with Bipolar II Disorder. Bipolar II Disorder is a mood disorder where one has recurring episodes of elevated mood called hypomania and low mood called depression. The episode of interest for this statement is the hypomanic episode and its symptoms that are relevant are:

- Inflated self-esteem or grandiosity
- More talkative than usual or pressure to keep talking
- Flight of ideas or subjective experience that thoughts are racing
- Increase in goal directed activity
- Excessive involvement in activities that have high potential for painful consequences with disregard for those consequences
- Feelings of euphoria
- Feelings of anger/ irritable mood and/or feelings of anxiety

This diagnosis has brought clarity to a situation that was previously very confusing for me. I hope that it brings clarity for you, reader, as well as I know many reading this were also likely confused. It is the opinion of myself and my psychiatrist that many of the interactions discussed in this statement happened during a hypomanic episode, likely brought on by--my new at the time--ADHD medication and the increase of its dosage. My purpose of talking about Bipolar Disorder is not to make excuses for my behavior. I think that at the end of the day all of us are responsible for our behavior. However, I do think undiagnosed

Bipolar Disorder does explain--at least in part--not all but many of the interactions that occurred and I do think part of taking responsibility for my behavior means taking responsibility for this mental illness and seeking treatment for it.

I ultimately should not be the judge and arbiter of my behavior. I can speak to things I know I have done, I can speak to why I did or did not do something. While I may agree or disagree with this or that assessment of my behavior. I cannot speak necessarily to how I have made other people feel. I recognize that I have hurt others and that I can't speak to others' perspectives and experiences. There may be people that, for example, have felt they were manipulated by me or felt that they were abused in some way and that I simply do not know about it. I am also aware that everyone--including myself--tends to view themselves and their actions with rose-tinted lenses more often than not. So, it's possible that I've missed something or been more charitable with myself than I should be. I am sorry that my actions hurt people. If my actions impacted you and you would like to make that known to me, reach out to a member of the Revolutionary Marxist Caucus and they will relay your request to someone who knows how to get in touch with me.

An accountability process has been designed for me. The process involves me reading books by different authors selected by this process and me writing essays about what I have learned from the readings. That I write essays examining my own thought processes and re-analyzing Robert Greene's work. The Revolutionary Marxist Caucus has requested that I compose a code of conduct consisting of ten points on how to engage with one's political opponents. I have also agreed that mentors will be informed within this year's time-span if I join any other political organizations and present this letter to any other organizations that I join. I have also agreed to not hold any leadership positions within any organizations for the period of three years. Lastly, I am personally keeping a journal where I reflect on this situation and I am currently seeking out a therapist to work with in order to work on my issues. I hope that these efforts are acceptable to anyone I may have hurt and I am committed to participating in this accountability process.

There are a lot of areas of personal growth that are beyond the scope of this process and that I will need to do myself. The mental illness discussed in this statement is life-changing and complicates quite a bit. Still, the work of managing this has to be done and it can only be done by me. What I hope to get out of the process' readings and essays is a greater

mindfulness of where I am and what I am doing. I hope to build a greater sense of compassion, empathy, and self awareness. I've already gained insight on the power one has over others--either real or perceived--and how that impacts how people behave around other people. I'd like to be more sensitive to this reality and have a better self-awareness of where I stand in any given social context relative to where someone else is at. Understanding this I think will help build better empathy for this person and better inform what ways are and are not appropriate to interact with them.

I would also like to create a better sense of being approachable to people. One of the reasons this situation escalated to the level that it has is because of the aforementioned power one has over others: real or perceived. The ORP felt as if they had to put up with my behaviors or lose access to a group that they wanted to be a part of so they felt that they could not confront me directly about my behavior. I would like others to not feel this way about me and feel that they can approach me and discuss something that I am doing which they do not like, or makes them uncomfortable, and not fear that some kind of retribution will come their way.

I am sorry for the harm I caused and hope that others can find healing with the steps that are being taken to address this both by myself and the chapter. Everyone in DSA San Diego deserves to feel and be safe and I contributed to creating an environment where that was not the case. For that I am sorry.