

<b>accessible</b>	<b>female</b>	<b>polarization</b>
<b>activism</b>	<b>feminism</b>	<b>political</b>
<b>advocacy</b>	<b>fostering inclusivity</b>	<b>pollution</b>
<b>affirming care</b>	<b>gender</b>	<b>pregnant people</b>
<b>all inclusive</b>	<b>gender-based violence</b>	<b>prejudice</b>
<b>allyship</b>	<b>gender affirming care</b>	<b>privilege</b>
<b>anti-racist</b>	<b>Gulf of Mexico</b>	<b>promote diversity</b>
<b>at risk</b>	<b>hate speech</b>	<b>pronoun</b>
<b>barriers</b>	<b>health disparity</b>	<b>race and ethnicity</b>
<b>belong</b>	<b>Hispanic minority</b>	<b>racial diversity</b>
<b>clean energy</b>	<b>historically</b>	<b>racial inequality</b>
<b>climate crisis</b>	<b>identity</b>	<b>racial justice</b>
<b>climate science</b>	<b>immigrants</b>	<b>segregation</b>
<b>community diversity</b>	<b>Inclusive</b>	<b>sense of belonging</b>
<b>community equity</b>	<b>inclusive leadership</b>	<b>sex</b>
<b>cultural differences</b>	<b>increased diversity</b>	<b>sexuality</b>
<b>cultural heritage</b>	<b>indigenous community</b>	<b>social justice</b>
<b>culturally responsive</b>	<b>inequalities</b>	<b>stereotype</b>
<b>disability</b>	<b>injustice</b>	<b>systemic</b>
<b>discrimination</b>	<b>institutional</b>	<b>they/them</b>
<b>disparity</b>	<b>intersectional</b>	<b>trans</b>
<b>diversity</b>	<b>LGBTQ</b>	<b>trauma</b>
<b>diverse communities</b>	<b>marginalized</b>	<b>tribal</b>
<b>enhance the diversity</b>	<b>mental health</b>	<b>underappreciated</b>
<b>equal opportunity</b>	<b>minority</b>	<b>underprivileged</b>
<b>equality</b>	<b>multicultural</b>	<b>underrepresented</b>
<b>equitable</b>	<b>Native American</b>	<b>underserved</b>
<b>equity</b>	<b>non-binary</b>	<b>undervalued</b>
<b>excluded</b>	<b>oppression</b>	<b>vulnerable populations</b>
<b>exclusion</b>	<b>orientation</b>	<b>women</b>
<b>expression</b>	<b>person-centered</b>	<b>women and</b>
		<b>underrepresented</b>

The above terms appeared in government memos, and official and unofficial agency guidance and in other documents viewed by the [New York Times](#). Some ordered the removal of these words from public facing websites or ordered the elimination of other materials including School curricula in which they might be included.

## From Phyllis Cole-Dai

According to The New York Times, the current US administration has now restricted or outright banned the use of hundreds of words and phrases in government documents ranging from agency memos to school curricula, grant proposals, and public-facing websites.

This is a small sampling of what I reckon as the government's "red list" of forbidden words—a list that the Times describes as "likely incomplete." (bold red above indicates PC-D's list)

My poem is a response to the government's abuse of our language, a reflection of its bullying of the country at large.

FOR LOVE OF THE LIGHT WE ARE  
Phyllis Cole-Dai

In opposition to the "red list" of words  
forbidden by the US government, 2025

You say  
we can no longer  
speak what we know,  
or name who we are,  
because you  
want to rule  
a nation  
that looks  
and sounds  
like your own fist

But truth  
doesn't go away  
because of a muzzle

Truth is  
as stubborn as a moon  
that refuses eclipse  
out of love  
for infinite light

Whatever shadows  
you would cast upon us,  
whatever terrors  
you would paint with the dark,  
we will not be silenced

You cannot disappear us

It is you who shall pass  
with your crippled tongue

And long after you go  
into forever night,  
we whom you tried  
to fill with lies  
will be here still,  
shouting our words,  
singing the truth,  
for love of the light we are