



Change the Mascot!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Change the Mascot Campaign Responds to Donald Trump's Support of Washington Team Name

Oneida Nation Homelands (Oct 5, 2015) Change the Mascot released the following statement after presidential candidate Donald Trump defended the use of the Washington NFL team's offensive R-word name in an interview with the New York Times:

"It is hardly surprising that a candidate who labeled Mexican immigrants rapists and calls women "pigs" now says he wants the NFL to continue slurring Native Americans. Donald Trump joins some of the NFL's ignoble fraternity of billionaires who sit in their office suites and owners boxes happily spending their fortunes denigrating people of color."

Change the Mascot is a grassroots campaign that works to educate the public about the damaging effects on Native Americans arising from the continued use of the R-word. This civil and human rights movement has helped reshape the debate surrounding the Washington team's name and brought the issue to the forefront of social consciousness. Since its launch, Change the Mascot has garnered support from a diverse coalition of prominent advocates including elected officials from both parties, Native American tribes, sports icons, leading journalists and news publications, civil and human rights organizations and religious leaders.

Below is a link to the New York Times article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/10/05/trump-and-bush-find-common-ground-on-washingtons-football-team/>

Full text of the article:

Donald Trump and Jeb Bush Find Common Ground on Washington's Football Team

After months of name-calling, Jeb Bush and Donald J. Trump have finally found a name that they can agree on: the Washington Redskins.

Last week, Mr. Bush weighed in on the long-running debate about whether the football team's name should be changed out of respect for Native Americans. Speaking on SiriusXM's POTUS channel, Mr. Bush said the Redskins should be left alone, saying "I don't find it offensive."

Native American groups were angered, and Democrats called it another example of Mr. Bush's insensitivity. But in this case, Mr. Trump says he thinks that Mr. Bush is right.

"Honestly, I don't think they should change the name, unless the owner wanted to," Mr. Trump said in an interview.

Mr. Trump, who has made bluntness a hallmark of his presidential bid, said that the Redskins moniker was yet another issue of unnecessary political correctness. The name has been that way for years, he said, and not everyone considers it to be a slur.

"I know Indians that are extremely proud of that name," he said. "They think it's a positive."

Areas of agreement between Mr. Trump and Mr. Bush have been few since they became presidential candidates, often ridiculing each other on policy and personality. Asked if their shared view on the Redskins might help them turn over a new leaf, Mr. Trump said with a laugh, "It's progress."

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