



# WE ARE VIRGINIA TECH

**We are Virginia Tech**

**WE ARE VIRGINIA TECH.** WE ARE SAD TODAY, AND WE WILL BE SAD FOR QUITE A WHILE.

WE ARE NOT MOVING ON. WE ARE EMBRACING OUR MOURNING.

**WE ARE VIRGINIA TECH.**

**We are Virginia Tech**

WE ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND TALL TEARLESSLY. WE ARE BRAVE ENOUGH TO BEND TO CRY,  
AND SAD ENOUGH TO KNOW WE MUST LAUGH AGAIN.

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WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS TRAGEDY. WE KNOW WE DID NOTHING TO DESERVE IT. BUT  
NEITHER DOES THE CHILD IN AFRICA DYING OF AIDS. NEITHER DO THE INVISIBLE CHILDREN  
WALKING THE NIGHT AWAY TO AVOID BEING CAPTURED BY A ROUGE ARMY. NEITHER DOES THE BABY  
ELEPHANT WATCHING ITS COMMUNITY BE DEVASTATED FOR IVORY. NEITHER DOES THE MEXICAN  
CHILD LOOKING FOR FRESH WATER. NEITHER DOES THE APPALACHIAN INFANT KILLED IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE NIGHT IN HIS CRIB IN THE HOME HIS FATHER BUILT WITH HIS OWN HANDS, BEING RUN OVER  
BY A BOULDER BECAUSE THE LAND WAS DESTABILIZED. NO ONE DESERVES A TRAGEDY.

**WE ARE VIRGINIA TECH.**

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THE HOKIE NATION EMBRACES OUR OWN AND REACHES OUT WITH OPEN HEART AND HANDS TO  
THOSE WHO OFFER THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS. WE ARE STRONG AND BRAVE AND INNOCENT AND  
UNAFRAID. WE ARE BETTER THAN WE THINK AND NOT QUITE WHAT WE WANT TO BE. WE ARE  
ALIVE TO THE IMAGINATION AND THE POSSIBILITY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO INVENT THE FUTURE  
THROUGH OUR BLOOD AND TEARS, THROUGH ALL THIS SADNESS. WE ARE THE HOKIES!

WE WILL PREVAIL! WE WILL PREVAIL! WE WILL PREVAIL!

**WE ARE VIRGINIA TECH.**

- *Nikki Giovanni*

VIRGINIA TECH, UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR, POET, ACTIVIST  
READ DURING THE VIRGINIA TECH CONVOCATION  
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