

OPINION

# Lowell Solidarity March was about more than wearing pink hats



By **LOWELL SUN**

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Thank you for The Sun's coverage of the Lowell Solidarity March on Jan. 21. I would like to add to the picture by drawing attention to some oversights in coverage.

Our panel featured many speakers, all people whose voices and experiences need to be respected. Setti Warren spoke about the importance of fighting for living wages and higher taxes on the wealthy. Vesna Nuon spoke about how Trump's administration has made life perilous for so many immigrants and racial minorities. Karen Cirillo talked about the importance of her grandmother starting a small business and about women being able to secure quality public education and intergenerational wealth for their families. Rufus Gifford talked about the importance of straight cisgender women and LGBTQIA people working in combined struggle. Susie In-Chhuon talked about obtaining a quality education and supporting the needs of the Cambodian-American community. Chanrithy Uong told us about confronting patriarchal traditions within the Cambodian-American community. Manisha Gadia Bewtra spoke about gender identity and the need for privileged people to prioritize empathy and diverse coalitions. Alexandra Chandler talked about her experiences as a transgender woman in the age of Trump and the importance of solidarity in the face of oppression.

Second, rather than “parad[ing] around the city”, we walked to raise awareness and in solidarity with the oppressed and the marginalized.

The story's headline mentioned pink hats. While some of our marchers did wear them, the focus of our march was intended to be on inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality.

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