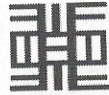


"We fall down, but we get up!"

Title of gospel song by
Donnie McClurkin (1959-)
American gospel singer and minister



ON HIGH ALERT! (THERE WILL BE NO GOING BACK)

Say what you want

You can even be detached

But, we³⁴ are here to stay

There will be no going back

Try rolling back legislation

Denying privileges and rights³⁵

But, we are telling you now

There will be no going back

Try to ignore us

Like we do not exist

Or fill us with fear

When we persist

Visceral gut-wrenching trauma

Will not be exposed for your pleasure

We have come too far

We have worked too hard

There will be no going back

Ceilings splintered, shattered, broken

Shards of glass pelt and impale

But, we are here, loudly proclaiming

Not cowering from threats of jail

There will be no going back

A monumental edifice

Structured on the nation's Mall³⁶

An invitation to come and bear witness

Of history too long on stall

There will be no going back

Your cataract-clouded vision

To realities of the world

And cancerous illusions

Hate-tainted, twisted swirls

Are not our realities

Or a world destined to be

You see...

This is 21st century America

"Land of the Free"

Your illusion of reality

You will never see

Because

There will be no going back

Written post-2016 election