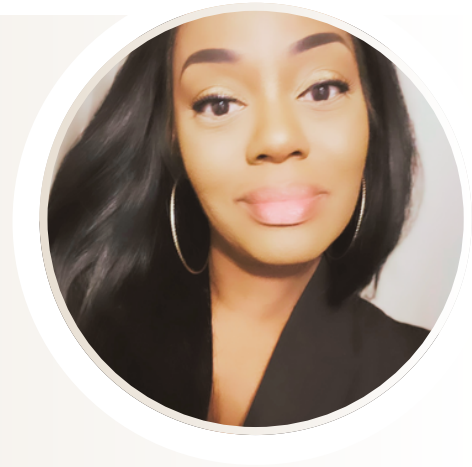The Trump Administration is doing everything it said it would do: indiscriminately incarcerating immigrants, firing thousands of civil servants, dismantling diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts (that mainly help white women), unabashedly spewing anti-Black rhetoric, attacking people with disabilities, destroying America's international relationships, and making a complete mockery of our democracy. It cannot be overstated that American democracy is under attack. Donald Trump and Elon Musk are new faces on old sprits of greed, hatred, and malfeasance. The good and bad news is that none of this is new. Growth spurts within our democracy have never occurred in times of peace. Education access, voting rights, women's suffrage, labor rights, civil rights against anti-Blackness, immigration rights – none of these have ever been won easily. Americans took to the streets to protest, we saturated newspapers and television to increase awareness, we wrote books to tell our stories, we sang songs to memorialize our heroes and to galvanize courage, we boycotted businesses to hold them accountable. We fought! That is what we had to do to win our democracy and that is what we will have to do to keep it. Peace is as beautiful as it is misleading. Peace is not an inherent state of affairs; it is the result of winning a fight. So that is what you must do. Fight with your words to encourage those that are in the fight with you. Fight with your intelligence to dismantle misinformation. Fight with your influence to advocate for the less fortunate – there is always someone worse off than you. Fight with your heart to remember that this isn't only about you. It's about US. We owe it to those who fought before us, we owe it to ourselves, and we owe it to our children not to give up. That is my message to you, reader. The only way we will win back and keep our democracy is if you fight for it. Know that I am fighting right alongside you.

In Black,

Alpha.

> "Growth spurts within our democracy have never occurred in times of peace.