



An open letter to Mr. Trump from Mr. John Villamil, President of the ASPIRA Association:

October 29, 2024

Dear Mr. Trump,

I am writing to express our profound disappointment and concern regarding the recent characterization of Puerto Rico as a “floating Island of garbage” by your campaign. On Sunday, Tony Hinchcliffe, a comedian engaged by your campaign rally at Madison Square Garden insulted the Puerto Rican people.

Such a statement is not only factually incorrect but also deeply offensive to the millions of proud Puerto Ricans who contribute significantly to the cultural and economic fabric of the United States. We are totally outraged that you did nothing to put a stop to his rhetoric, nor have you issued a public apology.

Puerto Rico is a vibrant and resilient community with a rich history and a powerful sense of identity. The island has faced numerous challenges, including natural disasters and economic hardships, yet its people have consistently demonstrated remarkable strength and perseverance. To dismiss Puerto Rico with such a derogatory term undermines the dignity and efforts of its residents.

It is crucial for political leaders and campaigns to foster unity and respect among all Americans, regardless of their background or place of residence. I urge your campaign to retract this statement made by your comedian at your rally and issue a public apology to the people of Puerto Rico and its diaspora. Furthermore, I encourage you to engage in a constructive dialogue that acknowledges the contributions and challenges of Puerto Ricans, and to support policies that promote their well-being and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and positive action.

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Established in 1961, ASPIRA is a national youth serving organization that promotes education, leadership development, and cultural pride in the Puerto Rican and Latino community. Educate yourself on Puerto Rico. [A Virtual Cruise to Puerto Rico – The National Museum of Language](#)

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