

Dear Martians,

I have been charged with making contact on behalf of our Federation. We are ashamed to learn that your spectacular red planet is on government hit lists. Please, please do not let your guard down. Nations with more money than sense are whipping up interest in sticking a flag on your Olympus Mons. Your PR team has done well up to now. Exaggerating your planet's hostility was an excellent tactic, show-casing iron oxide and lack of oxygen. Great warrior name-choice too. We are ashamed that for years you have put up with space modules circling you like Vikings and even landing without a passport. I bet you saw through the one called 'Spirit and Opportunity'. We know you sabotaged many of these missions and we suspect that it was you who hacked NASA social media accounts, flooding them with ads for deep-fried chocolate bars. We salute that ingenuity.

Unfortunately, we need to stress the colonisers are invasion-ready. Be warned, they will never learn your language or your songs. Their smiling faces are their most dangerous ones, we know from experience. We implore you to prepare and to hang on tight to loved ones, with all your arms. Sources tell us that they've rumbled your underground area. If your cultural treasures lie there, archives or artefacts, please bury them deeper. They annihilate everything they do not understand. They wreck climates too. We know they have plans to melt your ice cap for water.

To help you, we will leak all government documents, emails and any secret tapes we uncover. We are committed to doing our bit for inter-planetary solidarity. We welcome Martians to meetings, just bring some ID. There's a beach close to our offices, ideal for landing. Keep clear of the hospital car parks, you might get a ticket. Remember to bring an extra layer, any colour as long as you are warm, it helps being thick-skinned here. Let us know what you like to drink and we will get some in. Together, we can protect planets - and party.

Yours sincerely,

Ginger

Local Rep (Scunnered Earthlings of Conscience)

aka Elaine Webster