



Karol V. Mason
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Re: Building Trust and Solidarity

To the John Jay College Community:

The issues raised at Town Hall on April 9 gave me a lot to think about and I want to open the conversation to our entire community.

Recently, there have been a number of hateful messages and acts on our campus. I want to reiterate that I condemn anti-immigrant, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, homophobic, or racist hate speech on this campus. At John Jay we're committed to fostering an inclusive environment where everyone can respectfully communicate with each other.

As a school committed to educating fierce advocates for justice, I was inspired at the Town Hall hearing our students speak in solidarity with one another. This strong sense of advocacy and support for one another is a testament to our strength as a community. I also understand your frustration and that some of you are looking for more support regarding these incidents, and my response is that we need to do more, and we will do more.

Some of these intolerable incidents were associated with people outside of our community, but they still violated a sense of trust here on campus. Public Safety is still pursuing leads, and if we find the individuals who committed the acts, they will be held accountable. I have also asked Public Safety to consider what other measures may be needed to ensure safety when outside groups rent our space. While rentals provide us with a much-needed source of revenue for student programs, we need to make sure our guests are respectful and that we are able to address unacceptable behavior if it occurs.

Some of you also expressed that you are feeling targeted and dehumanized, including on our campus and in our classrooms. We want you to focus on being students, and every single person on this campus deserves to learn and work free from harassment. But we also must be able to have respectful debates, even when we disagree, and even when the disagreements might make us feel uncomfortable. Part of our mission at John Jay is to help students and faculty navigate difficult conversations with decency and dignity, while also providing the tools to advocate effectively against hate and injustice. That said, if you feel concerned about something that has happened in your classroom, please speak with the chair of the department for the class, or email Provost Yi Li, yili@jjay.cuny.edu, and he will connect you with the right person.

While we have accomplished so much together, we are not there yet. Our [Climate Review](#) process is still ongoing, and there are still opportunities for people to [submit confidential online feedback](#) until **Friday, April 19 at noon**. It's your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions, that will help us continue to improve our campus climate. We will also be having another Town Hall on May 9, and I hope to see you there.

It's my hope that we will continue this respectful dialogue together, in our classrooms, in our meetings, and everywhere at John Jay. It's through these vital acts of communication, understanding, and solidarity that everyone on our campus will feel safe, respected, and welcomed.

Thank you,

Karol V. Mason
President