



Karol V. Mason
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February 25, 2021

To: The John Jay College Community
Re: Unacceptable Acts of Hate and Intolerance

As an institution whose [core values](#) include diversity, equity, and integrity, we find any acts of hate, discrimination, or intolerance unacceptable. That's why we were disheartened to hear that a recent Black History Month event was repeatedly disrupted with offensive behavior. This disturbing interruption happened during our celebration of Black accomplishments and contributions. It happened within the context of a national racial reckoning that has challenged us all—especially communities of color. Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have continued to report a sharp increase in acts of racial discrimination during the pandemic. The impact of these acts around the country directly affects our AAPI community members.

Hatred of any kind has no place at John Jay. These disturbing attacks are in no way a reflection of who we are as a community. It's our collective obligation to reject all forms of discrimination and hate as we actively work to build bridges based on respect, understanding, and unity. The moment that one individual fails to see the common humanity in the people around him or her, the moment that one person neglects to recognize another person's hopes and dreams, in that moment our entire community feels the sting.

It's understandable that students, faculty, and staff experiencing and witnessing these horrific acts would be shaken. I urge anyone who needs help processing these events to use the counseling resources that are available. Students can set up a confidential meeting with a trained mental health professional, free of charge, through our [Counseling Services Center](#). And, through the [CUNY Work/Life Program](#), presented by CCA, faculty and staff can access free, confidential, emotional health and wellness services. If anyone needs support setting up a virtual event that's protected from offensive intrusions, please use CUNY's [Zoom Security Protocol Application Note](#) as a resource, and contact our [Department of Information Technology \(DoIT\)](#) for any further assistance.

Even as we contend with bitter voices of hatred, fear, bigotry, we stand together holding strong to our ideals of equality. Renouncing acts of hate, discrimination, and intolerance is hard work that's never fully done, but as true scholars of justice, we'll continue to build a community where everyone feels welcomed and is treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason".

Karol V. Mason
President