

Bias Related Incident: Lafayette Hall – 10/17/22

Subject: Bias Related Incident: Lafayette Hall

Dear Residents of Lafayette Hall,

On Saturday, September 24, 2022, there was an incident that occurred which is considered to be bias related in nature. Students personal whiteboards were vandalized with derogatory language targeting the LGBTQIA community. This type of behavior is directly against the University of Connecticut's values of striving to create a safe and inclusive community for all students.

A bias-related incident is an incident that negatively targets, intimidates, or threatens an individual or group due to race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical, mental, and intellectual disabilities, as well as past/present history of mental disorders. This includes, but is not limited to, graffiti or images that harass or intimidate individuals or groups due to the above characteristics.

We expect that you will all have an active part in building an inclusive community by helping us disrupt the narrative that events such as these create in our community. We can disprove these notions of intolerance by showing up in allyship to events that uplift and support each other. Although this incident has occurred in our area, I know they do not represent who we are as a community.

The RA and HD staff will be creating a poster campaign to highlight opportunities for growth and education for the residents of Lafayette Hall. This poster will explain the importance of living in an inclusive environment and it will provide resources you can find on campus to educate yourself and others as well. When you see these, I encourage you to have conversations with your RAs and fellow community members about how to be an ally while creating a safe and positive community.

As you move forward in immersing yourself in the community, please keep in mind that small actions, including vandalism in our community, have a major impact. We can be proactive and not reactive to situations like this by making the following changes in our daily behaviors: Hold your peers accountable for their decision; If you see something, whether it is bias or vandalism, say something to your RA, or your Hall Director. Remind your guests that you are responsible for their behavior and that you will not tolerate acts within your community.

If anyone has any additional information about this specific incident, please reach out to myself Jen Napiorski at jennifer.napiorski@uconn.edu or Steve Taylor at Stephen.taylor@uconn.edu.

If you encounter any other bias related incidents within the community, please do not hesitate to report it through the bias reporting form. <https://dos.uconn.edu/bias-reporting-2/>

Best,

Towers HD Team

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