

March 29 2021-Message from the Rainbow Center and ODI

March 29, 2021

Dear UConn students, staff, and faculty,

I am writing to you today to update you that this past month there were two separate reported bias incidents targeting the LGBTQIA+ community on UConn's campus.

On March 16, an RA in Alumni Hall found images drawn on a dry-erase board in the lounge space. These images referenced the LGBTQIA+ community in a disparaging manner. The Residential Life staff communicated with and offered support to the complainant and other identified witnesses as well as wrote a community response which can be found [here](#).

On March 20, it was reported that around 6:30pm a person in a car driving on North Eagleville Road yelled a derogatory term out the vehicle window. The Dean of Students Office and the Rainbow Center have reached out to the students targeted and offered support.

I would like to thank all of the individuals who reported the above bias incidents. University administration is following [the bias response protocol](#). This protocol is designed to assure that there are designated places to report incidents and identify potential interventions to remedy harm done.

These acts of hate against the LGBTQIA+ community do not align with the University of Connecticut's core values or the mission and values of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the Rainbow Center. LGBTQIA+ individuals comprise UConn's students, staff, and faculty and are to be celebrated and affirmed as integral members of our global and diverse campus community.

The Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the Rainbow Center want to ensure that those affected by these particular bias incidents receive appropriate support. Below is a list of different resources available to students, staff, and faculty. Additionally, **the Rainbow Center has designated 1:1 meetings hours held this Wednesday, March 31, and Friday, April 2, for anyone who would like to meet with Kelsey O'Neil to discuss this matter.** Please email the Rainbow Center at rainbowcenter@uconn.edu to reserve your space.

Furthermore, anyone wanting to learn more about queer theory/scholarship can also access the [Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department](#) website.

A list of resources to consult:

- [InForm](#)
- [Office for Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Academic Institutes](#)
- [African American Cultural Center](#)
- [Asian American Cultural Center](#)
- [Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center](#)
- [Rainbow Center](#)
- [Women's Center](#)
- [Queer BIPOC Faculty and Staff Affinity Group](#)
- [Queer UConn Employees Affinity Group](#)
- [Dean of Students](#)
- [Office of Institutional Equity](#)

Sincerely,

Kelsey O'Neil, Director, Rainbow Center

Dr. Frank Tuitt, Vice President/Chief Diversity Officer