



Karol V. Mason  
President  
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June 4, 2021

To: The John Jay College Community  
Re: Condemning Antisemitism, Islamophobia, Racism, & Intolerance

There's been a disturbing rise in [antisemitic hate crimes](#) across our city, state, and country. This behavior cannot be tolerated and we unequivocally condemn any form of antisemitism. I'd like to speak directly to our Jewish students, faculty, staff, and friends, and say that I've heard your concerns for your safety and well-being, and I understand your fears. When you read about the recent disturbing acts of antisemitism in New York City—synagogues being vandalized, attacks on innocent Jewish people, and cruel messages of hate posted online—it adds to your fears. These appalling acts toward the Jewish community are unacceptable and un-American.

As an institution focused on issues of justice, and a community striving to cultivate a supportive and inclusive environment for everyone to thrive, we must confront and denounce acts of hate whenever and wherever they occur. As we continue to condemn antisemitism, we must also face the growing concerns about Islamophobia. As we stand up against vicious anti-Asian attacks, we must also challenge cruel anti-Black and anti-Latinx preconceptions and practices. We cannot afford to let long-standing divisions, stereotypes, and scapegoating distract us from our common goal of obtaining justice and equality for all. Each one of us has a responsibility to confront these painful prejudices and to act as a mirror to the world, reflecting the unity that we hope to see.

There's a deep, shameful history of antisemitism, racism, and bigotry in our country and around the globe, but our voices are stronger than hate. Our determination for change runs deeper than indifference, and our commitment to peace exceeds intolerance.

Thank you,

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

Karol V. Mason  
President

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