



Commission on Human Rights

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NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS PUBLISHES FACT SHEET ABOUT DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT FOR STUDENTS

In Response to Escalating Tensions on University Campuses in New York City, Factsheet Details Students' Legal Rights and Obligations

NEW YORK, NY — To support students of all faiths and backgrounds, the New York City Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) [today published a fact sheet that details resources available to students who believe they have experienced or witnessed discriminatory harassment.](#)

While the city respects freedom of expression and opinion, the New York City Human Rights Law (NYCHRL) prohibits any person from using “force or threat of force” to intimidate or threaten any other person based on an individual’s actual or perceived membership to a protected category. The NYCHRL is one of the broadest civil rights laws in the nation that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on over 25 protected categories such as race, religion, and nation of origin in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

“Harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated here in New York City, and we are committed to ensuring that New Yorkers are aware of the laws and resources that are in place to protect them,” **said New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “We cannot underestimate the importance that education plays in fighting bias and hate, and we want all students attending schools and universities here in the five boroughs to know that they have the same protections under the New York City Human Rights Law as anyone who lives or works here.”

“New York City stands strongly against any discrimination or harassment of university students, who have chosen to pursue an education in the greatest city in the world,” **said City Hall Chief Counsel Lisa Zornberg**. “No student in New York City should ever be

targeted with antisemitic and other discriminatory rhetoric, let alone physically harassed. Peaceful protests must never involve threats or physical violence against others. I urge students, professors, and any university staff to contact CCHR if they feel they have been the subject of discriminatory harassment on the basis of race, religion, nation of origin, or any other protected class.”

“As a city agency actively engaged in anti-discrimination work, CCHR protects the rights of students of all faiths to learn free from discrimination or harassment,” said **CCHR Commissioner and Chair, Annabel Palma**. “There is no space for hate in our city. This is a globally diverse place, and it has always been a point of pride that students from all religions, cultures, and ethnicities choose to study in our great city. New Yorkers must find solace in our shared humanity while also celebrating the beauty of our differences.”

Everyone in New York City is prohibited from committing acts of discriminatory harassment, just as everyone is protected against harassment. Harassment with immediate threat of harm from a classmate or any member of the public on or around campus is illegal and may result in significant civil penalties under the NYCHRL.

Discriminatory harassment may include:

- Forcibly removing religious garb such as a yarmulke, hijab, or turban;
- Threats or intimidation that restrict mobility and are based on perceived national origin or religion;
- Directing threats of violence at someone because of their actual or perceived race, religion, nation of origin, disability, gender, gender identity, sexuality, immigration status, or any other protected status under the NYCHRL.

If anyone in New York City feels that they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment because of their identity, report to CCHR by calling (212) 416-0197 or filling out [CCHR's online form](#).

If anyone has been physically harassed or assaulted because of their identity — including race, ethnicity, or religion — please call 911. NYPD offices can help connect individuals to victim support services. New Yorkers can also contact a Crime Victim Advocate to help deal with emotional, physical, and financial aftermath of a crime, and explore other options. Call the All-Crimes Hotline at 1-866-689HELP (4357). Even if you call 911, you can also pursue a civil claim through CCHR.

In addition to CCHR's enforcement of the NYCHRL, CCHR has worked for over 80 years to foster positive intercultural relationships through education and outreach. CCHR conducts

trainings that cultivate cultural competency and remind participants that human rights are interconnected. CCHR also provides a 'Bystander Intervention Workshop' that is built on the idea that everyone plays a role in creating safe public spaces when communities face bias discrimination, or harassment. The full list of [workshops can be found on CCHR's website](#). To request a workshop, please fill out CCHR's '[Request a Workshop Form](#).'

CCHR protects the right to live, work, learn, and thrive free from discrimination and harassment in New York City, a diverse metropolis filled with students and people from all walks of life and lived experiences.

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