

Dear Presidents,

The horrific Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on October 7th continues to reverberate on our campuses and among students, faculty, and staff. As we work together to support our campus communities, I want to flag a few important items.

First, the safety of our campus communities will always be paramount, and our foremost imperative is ensuring our campuses are safe and supportive places where all students feel secure and can thrive in an environment free from hate, bias, antisemitism, and Islamophobia. I spoke with Governor Hochul last night, and she reiterated her commitment to ensure all colleges and universities in New York State fulfill this expectation.

As you know, earlier this month I directed the University Police Commissioner to work with campuses to provide enhanced security to students, specifically including Jewish students attending Shabbat services. We continue to work closely with the University Police Department to ensure campus safety. I urge you to coordinate closely with UPD for coverage of religious services, vigils, rallies, protests, and other campus events. UPD Commissioner Mary Ritayik [REDACTED] is available to provide any additional support you may need.

Some students and other campus community members also face additional mental health and well-being challenges right now – including Israeli and Jewish students and Palestinian and Muslim students. Please prioritize providing mental health services and supports on your campus – including proactively informing students how and where they can access support – and contact Senior Vice Chancellor & Chief Hospital and Healthcare Operations Officer Val Grey [REDACTED] for help.

In addition, the nation's college campuses are at heightened alert for bias concerns. I am directing all campuses to remind students of the availability of bias hotlines and reporting procedures and where students can turn for assistance. Every incoming report must be taken seriously and investigated fully. This is consistent with SUNY's Bias-Related Crime Prevention Policy, which states: "each campus shall inform incoming students about bias-related crime prevention measures through programs which may include workshops, seminars, discussion groups and film presentations, in order to disseminate information about bias-related crime, promote discussion, encourage reporting of incidents of bias-related crime and facilitate prevention of such incidents." Senior Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and SUNY Chief Diversity Officer Ricardo Nazario-Colón [REDACTED] is available to support your campus in this work.

Finally, I want to reiterate there is no place at SUNY for hatred, for antisemitism, for bias of any kind, or for actions that jeopardize the safety of campus community members. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for additional support.

Sincerely,

Chancellor John B. King, Jr.



**John B. King, Jr., J.D., Ed.D.**

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