

## The Worcester State Community Does Not Tolerate Hate, They Tolerate Humanity And Respect

Karen Shaley, president of Jewish Student Group at Worcester State University became absolutely insulted when she reacted about the Swastika sign. On December 6th, 2019, when she first heard about the swastika incident, it did not sit right with her. On February 26th, 2020, I interviewed her and she said, “when I first heard about the Swastika being drawn in a bathroom in the LRC, I knew it was time to time to act.”

“As a Jewish Student who has experienced hate, I need to make sure that I represented not only students, but I stood up for every other student who has experienced hate in any form,” Shaley said. She explained about what it feels like being discriminated against. Everytime, when someone is insulted, she will advocate not just for herself but, for the preparation of the future.

When she faced four challenges: hate, bias, racism and incivility, she understood what it feels like to live that situation. Something about how she decided to start the Jewish Student Group and speak, with her sister, at the rally against hate, as a way to respond. During the Rally event, she about the introduction and experience of the Jewish Student Club. “Our club services is to support our Jewish and other interesting students, like providing religious, cultural, social and educational programs.”

There were four Swastika accidents. The first incident of Swastika was happened on December 6th, 2019, A Worcester State Faculty alleged reported that the Swastika sign were drawned on third-floor men’s restroom in the Learning Resource Center. Then, three days later,

the second incident was occurred at the same place. The third incident was took place on January 28th, 2020, where the grafitti sign was located in the classroom at the third floor in the same building. According to Worcester Telegram, “It is reprehensible that this happened on a day that Worcester State conducted programming on anti-Semitism related to bias incidents that occurred last semester, and a day after the 75th anniversary to commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz This behavior will not be tolerated on this campus nor by any member of the Worcester State community as we will continue to educate our community on what is appropriate, respectful conduct for all people.” The fourth and last incident was happed on January 30th, 2020. According to an email, “a report of inappropriate graffiti discovered yesterday, Jan. 30, in the 2nd floor men's restroom of the Sullivan Academic Center. The graffiti was removed after being photographed by University PD. The matter is under investigation.”

*Rally for Unity: WSU Stands Against Hate* is the event based on the Worcester State community to send an message to reject hatred and racism. Many faculty members and students shared their own thoughts. When Shaley’s sister and herself participated in a Rally event on February 13th, she began to advocate hatred. She stated in the interview: “my sister and I were honored to take part in the rally on February 13th as co-presidents of WSU’s upcoming Chabad on Campus at Worcester State University, which will be WSU’s only Jewish Club. I applaud every faculty member for standing up against hate.” Their speeches were inspiring and show that our campus is filled with people who are ready and willing to take action to stop hate,”

Shaley said. She knowledge that “WSU has taken appropriate action and emboldened us to make sure all students are safe on campus.” There is a change to improve the Jewish Community. She encouraged the audience stand up for your rights and reject it immediately. Sam O’ Connell, a faculty member from the Visual and Performing Arts Department made a huge reaction of the situation. It made him very angry and became very personal for him and explained on the event about the reaction of the Swastika incident.

According to Pew Research Center, “Today, 64% of Americans say Jews face at least some discrimination – a 20-percentage-point increase from 2016; the share saying Jews face “a lot” of discrimination has nearly doubled, from 13% to 24%.”

“I know what they say about me with my office and my classroom and a place of worship... and place of e-mail, I know what they say about me. They hate that over targets me, my family, my friends, my culture and my history,” O’ Connell said. He send a strong message to complete his speech: “I’m going to teach, I’m going to resist hate, and I’m going to work to build a community in which hate cannot win.” Shaley admired Dr. O Connell: “Dr. Sam O’ Connell is my VPA advisor and has been inspiration to me from my first day,” Shaley said.

Third World Alliance (TWA) is an organization that diverse into campus to be involve in culture to bring the Worcester Community with a lot of cultural experience. They do cultural events and provide special guests for lectures.

Eriberto Mora, a Staff Associate of Multicultural Affairs, faced with many circumstances as Karen. He dealt with racism when he was a high school student. As a Staff Associate, he deals

with different diverse population. His experience in WSU as a faculty member is good.

“Worcester State particularly in this office is good. I help a student needs in other resources.” He works with high school and college students. Eriberto is originally from Mexico and he came to the United States as a child. His experience in this country, has been challenging. “As a person of color, is not easy living in the United States. In terms of not having resources of racism, immigration,” he said. When he participated rally event, he knowledgeable it as a good start for people to be involve in the same page, he explained about the unity and our advocacy, “we are unified and this is our message. But there needs to be more action to be done and that is advocating folks and all this topics, ” he said. In his perspective, he told me that “when people see this, they’re not welcomed. It makes people scarred and this is horrible.” He suggested to the WSU community to educate people and bring awareness to the topic.

The impact of many people affects the Swastika incident in a very harmful way. People are very offended when others draw an insult symbolism as they avoid kindness, however, they do not care about how racism and hatred became an negative influence to the society.

## References

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