

November 1, 2018

Kingshansah, they created an environment that lives on. I denounce name-calling and disrespectful and
inappropriate language and behavior.

Dear College Community,

Two days ago, I wrote to you about the horrific anti-Semitic massacre in Pittsburgh. The gunman targeted Jews because of their religion (and their support of immigrants). Sadly, there have been many other recent incidents of violence and attempted violence against people targeted for their identity or perceived identity. There have been shootings and bombs in churches, synagogues and mosques, and against people whose faith, race, sexuality or views the perpetrators hate.

I recently received a report about accusatory materials that have been distributed on campus. In the past, some members of our community have felt targeted because they are Jewish or Muslim, because they are Black, Latino or Asian, because they have spoken out for Israel or for Palestinians, because of their political views, because of their gender identity and because of their sexual orientation. Intolerance easily manifests itself in negative behaviors and rhetoric. And it is this rhetoric, hate speech which often leads to what the world has witnessed in Pittsburgh, Orlando, Charlottesville and many other places.

Hate speech is not the same as hateful violence. Hate speech and speech that is hurtful are generally protected by the first amendment. But, as we have learned from too many tragedies, speech can contribute to an environment in which violence is more likely to occur