



To: New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education
From: Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education
Date: October 17, 2023
Subject: Resources for Addressing Bias on Campus

In Governor Murphy's [latest statement](#) on the rising tensions and reports of violence due to conflict in the Middle East, he writes:

"The last week has been incredibly difficult for many people throughout New Jersey and the world. We mourn for the Israeli and Palestinian victims and families who are suffering unfathomable loss and uncertainty, and condemn all acts of terrorism against innocent civilians. Violence or discrimination against anyone based on their religion, whether it is Judaism, Islam, or anything else, is never justified and runs counter to the principles of equality and tolerance that are the foundation of our state and our country. We pray for continued peace in our state and may New Jersey be a shining example of how diverse communities can live, work and pray together."

The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education recognizes the equal responsibility of New Jersey's higher education community to not only ensure the safety and wellbeing of our state's diverse communities, but to foster respectful, inclusive learning environments.

Therefore, as campus communities across the state wrestle with what is happening during these difficult times, we would like to remind our institutions of the [Addressing Bias on Campus](#) resource our office produced in collaboration with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. We also encourage institutions to ensure all students are aware of the mental health and counseling services available on campus and beyond, including the virtual services through the [State's partnership with Uwill](#), that is providing students with 24/7/365 access to a diverse network of mental health practitioners with multicultural competency at no cost.

With your partnership, our aim is to maintain an environment where every student is valued and protected and where every student has the resources necessary to confidently and successfully navigate their postsecondary journey.

Thank you.