



July 11, 2022

**VIA EMAIL**

Leigh Ann O'Neill  
Staff Attorney  
Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism  
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Dear Ms. O'Neill,

I am writing in response to FAIR's letter dated June 15, 2022. Brown University's Mindfulness Center offers non-credit teacher training courses in mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR). This summer, the Mindfulness Center added to its cohort of programs a certificate training program focused on addressing the needs, life experiences, and priorities of marginalized communities. The intent was to reach future teachers who have a special interest in or history of personal engagement with the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and/or Latino/Latina people and others who have been underrepresented in the mindfulness field.

The MBSR certificate program that was for individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or Latino/Latina is no longer being offered and is being redesigned so that applicants of any race, color, or national or ethnic origin can be eligible for the program. The redesigned teacher training certificate program, which Brown plans to launch in the next academic year, will be for individuals who have demonstrated experience in or a commitment to working with historically underrepresented groups ("HUGs") or marginalized communities. The program may be of special interest to people who identify as HUGs and others who have been underrepresented in the mindfulness field.

It is worth noting that earlier this month, the MBSR's certificate program began transitioning to Brown's School of Professional Studies (SPS) as part of a long-planned organizational change. SPS has policies and procedures that ensure that its courses are accessible to a full range of qualified applicants. The Committee on Academic Programs and Faculty Appointments reviews and approves all non-credit courses so that the quality of teaching and curriculum meet Brown University's standards. The University will make determinations regarding financial assistance for all program participants in accordance with applicable law and University policy.

Brown is committed to offering the MBSR certificate program that is accessible to the full range of qualified applicants and reflects its inclusive nature in accordance with the University's policies. I encourage you to share Brown's position with the individual who submitted the incident report to FAIR.

Very truly yours,

Eileen Goldgeier  
Vice President and General Counsel