



FOUNDATION  
AGAINST  
INTOLERANCE  
& RACISM

April 15, 2024

United States Commission on Civil Rights  
Office of the Staff Director  
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1150  
Washington, DC 20425

Dear Members of the United States Commission on Civil Rights,

I am the Director of Legal Advocacy at the Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism, a nonpartisan, nonprofit civil rights organization with members and chapters across the country. I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of significant concern regarding an alleged violation of civil rights at the University of Virginia (UVA). Based on the information we have received, we believe there is a pressing need for the Commission to hold a hearing with the leadership of UVA to address the ongoing, pervasive instances of discriminatory hostility directed at certain UVA students on the basis of their actual or perceived race, national origin, religion, and ethnicity.

In addition to reports of widespread hostility on the UVA campus, a specific instance was [reported](#) to us of hostility directed at a particular student, Matan Goldstein, including alleged retaliation by the University following Goldstein's reports of harassment. The hostile environment at UVA has limited Goldstein's ability to participate in his educational programs and activities fully. I have attached here for your reference a copy of our [complaint](#), filed with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Given the seriousness of these allegations and the importance of upholding civil rights within our educational institutions, I strongly urge the Commission to take immediate action by convening a hearing with the University of Virginia's leadership. Such a hearing would provide a platform for the affected parties to voice their concerns, allow for a thorough examination of the alleged violations, and facilitate constructive dialogue in an effort to find solutions to prevent future occurrences.

It is imperative that academic institutions, such as the University of Virginia, uphold the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion, and take proactive measures to address any instances of discrimination or injustice within their campus communities. The Commission can play a pivotal role in ensuring accountability and promoting a culture of respect for civil rights in educational settings by conducting a hearing on this matter.

We appreciate the Commission's commitment to advancing civil rights and equality for all Americans, and I trust that you will give careful consideration to this request. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter, and I look forward to your prompt action in addressing these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LA O'Neill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "LA" and the last name "O'Neill" clearly distinguishable.

Leigh Ann O'Neill  
Director of Legal Advocacy  
Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism (FAIR)