Bias Crime Prevention Information

Efforts to Proactively Prevent Bias Crimes

Manhattan School of Music is committed to developing as an artistic educational environment that balances respect for the individual, the community, and the artistic learning process. It encourages reflection, discussion, expression, questioning, and learning that are not discriminatory or harassing. The school carries out discussions and/or presentations in and out of the classroom that encourage respectful interactions between individuals. In addition, education to inform the community about issues of bias-related harassment or crimes will occur via the sharing of literature and through the use of bulletin boards. Students will be informed of presentations, films, seminars, performances, or discussions that complement the classroom experience and take place in Andersen Hall or through the Office of Student Engagement by postings in the school and/or Andersen Hall. The purpose of these programs is to disseminate information about bias-related crime, promote discussion, encourage reporting of incidents of such crime, and facilitate prevention.

Bias-Related Incidents and the NYS Hate Crimes Act of 2000

Applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations on bias-related crime, including the provisions and coverage of the Hate Crimes Act of 2000 codified in article 485 of the New York State penal law.

The laws on and penalties for the commission of bias-related crimes can be viewed at http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/legalservices

A person commits a hate crime when he or she commits a specified offense and either:

(1) Intentionally selects the person against whom the offense is committed or intended to be committed in whole or in substantial part because of a belief or perception regarding the race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability, or sexual orientation of a person, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct, or

(2) Intentionally commits the act or acts constituting the offense in whole or in substantial part because of a belief or perception regarding the race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability, or sexual orientation of a person, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct.

Nature of and Common Circumstances concerning Bias-related Crime on College Campuses

Such crimes can involve racial epithets, disparate treatment based on racially or gender-related assumptions, or sexually discriminatory behaviors in terms of “hostile environment” (sexual harassment), and intolerance toward openly gay students (in language and action).
Penalties for Commission of Bias-related Crimes

When a person is convicted of a hate crime, the crime shall be deemed to be a higher category than the specified offense the defendant committed. Specific penalties and terms of imprisonment can be viewed at www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?cl=82&a=18.

Procedures in Effect at the College for Dealing with Bias-related Crime

Students should notify Manhattan School of Music’s security staff (ext. 4700 in Andersen Hall or ext. 4444 in the school) immediately of all incidents of bias-related crime so that protection—including police protection—can be provided if needed. When the accused is a Manhattan School of Music student, the victim should meet with the Director of Student Engagement, the Dean of Students, or the Senior Director of Administration and Human Relations. The student can be advised of procedures to report incidents, options for counseling support, and medical assistance if needed. Students may file formal charges with the police as well. The Office of Student Engagement or the security staff can assist students with obtaining information to contact the appropriate precinct of the New York City Police Department.

Students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to report any violation of policy or behavior that is outside of the community standards in a timely fashion so that the school can investigate and react in an optimal fashion. Students may pursue a bias-related incident through both the school and through the New York State criminal justice system. The school has no jurisdiction over the New York State criminal system process, so both processes may proceed on different timelines and with different outcomes.

Support Services for Those Who Have Experienced or Witnessed Bias-related Crime

Support services for those who have experienced or witnessed bias-related crime are available in the Office of Student Engagement and the Andersen Hall Residence Life Office. Both offices can supply students with a list of MSM's in-house counseling team.