



A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRESIDENT

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.

Zoom-Bombing Incident

The College Administration has been made aware of a "Zoom-bombing" incident that occurred on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 during an on-line academic event held by the Black Studies | Latin American and Caribbean Studies Humanities Department. Zoom-bombing is described as an on-line activity in which an uninvited guest to a Zoom meeting shares their screen with disturbing or distracting content. Zoom-bombing attacks, including those perpetrated during events celebrating Black History month, are among a number of unwelcome on-line conduct targeting universities across the nation.

The College Public Safety Department and Information Technology Department are investigating the incident, and the CUNY Office of the University Executive Director of Public Safety and the NYPD have been informed. While there is no evidence at this time to support that the perpetrator(s) of the incident are members of the College community, the Public Safety Department is asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the Department of Public Safety at 718-518-6888 and or via e-mail at psafety@hostos.cuny.edu.

Students who witnessed the Zoom-bombing incident and who wish to speak to someone about any distress they are feeling may contact a College Counselor. To speak with a Hostos Community College Counselor or make an appointment, call 718-518-4461 or email infocounseling@hostos.cuny.edu. All communications are answered the same day during business hours.

After hours, and weekends, the CUNY Crisis Text Line is a viable alternative that is available to all students. If you are in crisis, text 741741.

In an emergency when the Hostos Counseling Center is closed, call NYC Well (1-888-692-9355) or go to your local hospital emergency room.

If you are a College employee and wish to speak to someone, you may reach out to CUNY's free and confidential Employee Assistance/Work-Life

Program CCA@YourService. Counselors are available 24/7 to assist employees in times of crises as well as to support their emotional health on an ongoing basis. To access these services, you may call 800-833-8707 or online at www.myccaonline.com. Use company code: CUNY.

When hosting a Zoom meeting or using other similar platforms, we ask you to be as secure as possible in hosting the event in order to prevent Zoom-bombing and similar behavior. One important step you can take to prevent unwelcome participants is controlling how participants enter the meeting by requiring a password or setting up a waiting room and checking in attendees individually. Additional Zoom Safety and Security tips can be found on the college READY page here: <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Ready/Staying-Safe-Online>.

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