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**From:** Monteiro, Alexis <alexismonteiro@uconn.edu>  
**Subject:** Community Bias Response

Dear Residents of McMahon Hall,

On multiple occasions during the month of October, there have been incidents where a swastika was drawn on the inside of the elevator door of McMahon North Tower. This type of behavior is considered to be bias-related in nature. It goes directly against the University of Connecticut's values of striving to create a safe and inclusive community for all students.

A bias-related incident is an incident that negatively targets intimidates, or threatens an individual or group due to race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical, mental, and intellectual disabilities, as well as past/present history of mental disorders. This includes, but is not limited to, vandalism, graffiti, or images that harass or intimidate individuals or groups due to the above characteristics.

It was also during the month of October that conflicts between Palestine and Israel became very public to the world. At the University of Connecticut, we encourage students to engage in civilized discourse about global issues and social justice. It is never okay to act in a way that intentionally harms your fellow students or allows others to do so. Engaging with such behavior does not align with the values and high standards expected of a UConn Husky. As you move forward in immersing yourself in the community, please remember that small actions can have a major impact. Symbols such as these carry a hurtful past and can be viewed as anti-Semitic at its core, given the current events.

Hold your peers accountable for their actions, and if you see something, whether it is bias or vandalism, say something to your RA or your Hall Director. Remind your guests that you are responsible for their behavior and will not tolerate actions of this nature within our community.

If anyone has any additional information about this specific incident, please contact me via email or stop by my office across from the dining hall in the McMahon lobby.

If you encounter any other bias-related incidents within the community, please do not hesitate to report it through the bias reporting form at

<https://dos.uconn.edu/bias-reporting-2/>

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Sempre com amor, união, e esperança,  
Alexis Monteiro

"We have the responsibility to spread love-amor, unity-uniao, and hope-esperanca by shining our light for what is right and just." - Alexis Monteiro

## **Alexis T. R. Monteiro, M.S.**

[He/Him/His](#)

Residence Hall Director - McMahon Hall

Department of Residential Life - University of Connecticut

Office Phone: 860-486-3801

E-mail: [alexismonteiro@uconn.edu](mailto:alexismonteiro@uconn.edu)

[www.reslife.uconn.edu](http://www.reslife.uconn.edu)

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