There have recently been several tragic suicides related to bullying, harassment, and ignorance. The most recent of these was a freshman student at Rutgers University. The Office of LGBTQ Student Life is committed to ensuring that all LGBTQ students at the University of Chicago are able to enjoy a safe, vibrant campus life, free from harassment. I am writing to you to encourage you to use the Office of LGBTQ Student Life, which serves as a resource, safe space, and source of support for University of Chicago students. We are all deeply concerned about the well-being of members of our community, and we understand the difficulties associated with coming out. You should feel free to contact the Office of LGBTQ Student Life if you have any concerns or need support for yourself or others.

At this time of grief and soul-searching at Rutgers University and elsewhere, we invite the LGBTQA campus community to participate in a Ceremony of Solidarity with all who are struggling with coming out, or with being bullied or harassed. The candlelit ceremony, sponsored by the Office of LGBTQ Student Life, along with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and the Spiritual Life Office, will take place next Thursday, October 7, at 6:30 pm in the Community Lounge at 5710 South Woodlawn. Students of any spiritual orientation or tradition, or none, are invited to participate.

In addition to the Office of LGBTQ Student Life, there are a wide variety of resources available on campus to support students. If you are a student who is experiencing distress, you can contact your Dean of Students (http://csl.uchicago.edu/area_dean.shtml) and/or the Student Counseling and Resource Service (SCRS) directly at 773.702.9800.

Any students who feel they are currently being harassed, have experienced/witnessed bias incidents or hate crimes should be aware of several important resources available to them, including the Bias Response Team, Unlawful Harassment Complaint Advisors, University of Chicago Police Department, and the Dean on Call Program.

Listed below are hours for SCRS and other important phone numbers:

- Student Counseling and Resource Service (SCRS): M-F, 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M., 773.702.9800 from any phone
- Student Counseling and Resource Service (SCRS): after hours, 773.702.3625 from any phone
- University Police: 123 from a campus phone, 773.702.8181 from any phone
- Dean on Call Program: 123 from a campus phone, 773.702.8181 from any phone
- Bias Response Team: 24/7, 773.702.2427 from any phone
• Unlawful Harassment Complaint Advisors: Contact: Aneesah Ali, 773.702.5671 from any phone
• Office of LGBTQ Student Life: 773.834.1005 from any phone

In addition to the resources listed above, students should also be aware the Student Counseling and Resource Service also facilitates a Coming Out Discussion Group every Thursday from 2:00-3:30pm. Students who are interested in participating should contact John McPherrin, PsyD, at jkm@uchicago.edu or by calling 773-702-9800. SCRS also offers a weekly drop-in service, Let’s Talk, which provides easy access to informal and confidential consultations with counselors from SCRS. No names need be given to the counselors during Let’s Talk. Below are the times and locations for Let’s Talk:

• Tuesdays, 2:30-4:30 pm, I-House, Suite 291
• Wednesdays, 11 am – 1 pm, Rockefeller Chapel, Uncommon Room
• Fridays, 1-3 pm, 5710 (South Woodlawn), Room 301 (LGBTQ Lounge)

Remember that if you feel that you or a friend are in immediate danger, please contact University Police at 123 from a campus phone, or 773.702.8181 from any phone immediately.

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