



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 1, 2010

BiasHELP, Inc.

T: 631.479.6015 F: 631.271.5720

Contact: Karen Ross, Vice President of Agency Programs

BiasHELP Speaks Out Against the Death of Rutgers University Student, Tyler Clementi

BiasHELP, Inc. is outraged to learn that the suicide of Rutgers University Student, Tyler Clementi, was prompted by actions of his roommate including Twitter messages regarding Tyler's sexual orientation and a live video stream of a private sexual encounter with another man that was posted on the Internet using a planted web-cam.

While the individuals linked to Tyler's death were charged with multiple counts of invasion of privacy, BiasHELP believes that the actions committed are hate crimes; and that Tyler was targeted because he was gay.

In addition, the use of Twitter and web-cams brings issues of cyber-bullying to the forefront. As young people spend more time online, cyber-bullying has become prevalent. Cyber-bullying can involve: sending mean, vulgar or threatening messages or images; posting sensitive or damaging private information or misinformation about another person in a public forum; breaking into an email or social networking account and using that person's online identity to send or post vicious or embarrassing material to/about others. BiasHELP's CEO/Managing Director Gail Barouh, Ph.D. is calling for stronger laws against any form of technology-assisted bullying and stronger penalties for actions that lead an individual to commit suicide.

Dr. Barouh and the staff of BiasHELP are saddened by the loss of Tyler Clementi and offer our most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

BiasHELP, Inc. is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to preventing and addressing discrimination, harassment and violence. Utilizing a team of skilled educators, BiasHELP conducts specially tailored trainings on bullying/cyber-bullying as well as trainings on racism, sexism, anti-semitism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination. For more information on BiasHELP's anti-bias programming and efforts, please visit the website at www.BiasHELP.org or call our toll free number at 877-END-BIAS (363-2427).