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**Statement regarding the recent Gender 101 training for the parents, educators, and caregivers of West Hartford's Eric G. Norfeldt School Parent Teacher Organization.**

**The life saving services and programming that the New Haven Pride Center and other LGBTQ+ community centers provide is vital.**

The New Haven Pride Center's mission is to provide comprehensive services, dynamic activities, and youth empowerment programming for the LGBTQ+ community of Connecticut. It is additionally our mission to provide opportunities for learning for individuals, groups, and organizations who do not identify as part of the community.

**The New Haven Pride Center will not stop doing this work regardless of who seeks to intimidate or threaten us or spread misinformation.** The fight for LGBTQ+ rights and equality has been a movement that has lasted decades, dating back long before the Stonewall Riots on June 28, 1969. 52 years after that infamous day, our community is still under attack and the New Haven Pride Center is committed to providing advocacy, services, and programming for all members of our community.

In late February, the Center was approached by a group of parents from West Hartford's Eric G. Norfeldt School Parent Teacher Organization seeking to host a training for parents and caregivers aimed at understanding terminology and learning about creating safe inclusive supportive spaces for their children, both at home and in the classroom. The goal of the workshop was to equip parents and caregivers with knowledge, language and tools, make sure that they were aware of the services, and give them a space to ask questions. Unfortunately, this workshop has been mischaracterized by certain national media outlets after a member of the group, who it would appear did not attend the workshop, decided to share misinformation about the training's content that has resulted in the targeting of the New Haven Pride Center and it's staff with hate. **The behaviour by this parent is exactly why trainings and workshops like this are so important.** Giving non-community members the opportunity to come together and learn about the community and ask questions is the best way to dispel myths that are the root of much of the hate, bullying and discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ people.

**The New Haven Pride Center will not be intimidated by those who seek to harm or dehumanize our community.** The Center will ALWAYS be here to support our community and help train those who wish to better provide space and services for LGBTQ+ people. **Hate will not stop the important work that must be done to give future generations of LGBTQ+ people the opportunity to thrive within society and live full and healthy lives.**

The New Haven Pride Center is Connecticut's hub for community, culture, and support. Learn more about our services and programming at [newhavenpridecenter.org](http://newhavenpridecenter.org).