

Students at Croton-Harmon High School have decided to take action against the recent spike in anti-Semitic, anti-LGBTQ, anti-Muslim, and anti-immigrant acts of violence by standing together and representing Croton-on-Hudson as a village of acceptance and inclusion. On Thursday, March 19th, in Vasallo Park (1-99 Beekman St. in Croton-on-Hudson) from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. there will be a candlelight vigil in solidarity against the recent spike in hate crimes. Activism groups from Croton-Harmon High School, such as Students Together Against Racism, PRIDE, Activism, and Women's Connect Clubs, have come together in collaboration with the Croton-on-Hudson Diversity and Inclusion Committee to organize the event.

Since 2017, the number of hate crimes reported to the FBI has remained at an all-time high, with a 30% increase over the last few years. Victims are targeted because of their race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability, among other factors. Many hate crimes in New York are targeted primarily at the state's Jewish population; in 2019, New York City experienced a record-high number of anti-Semitic hate crimes, the highest it's been since 1992. Similar trends can be seen nationwide.

The vigil will include songs, poetry, and speeches from members of participating clubs. Superintendent of Croton-Harmon Schools Dr. Deborah O'Connell, Croton Mayor Brian Pugh, and local faith leaders Pastor Douglas Cunningham and Rabbi Jennifer Jaech will also speak. CHHS and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee encourage all members of the community to support the stand against hate crimes by coming to the vigil. The rain date for this event is March 26.

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CHHS Class of 2020