



The New York Library Association Reaffirms the Right to Read in Response to the Hilton Schools Hate Crime

The New York Library Association stands with the Hilton Schools community in the aftermath of bomb threats made to their schools and their Superintendent, threats made in opposition to students' rights to access and read LGBTQ+ books in their school libraries.

The threats made to the Hilton Schools community and their Superintendent are indicative of the rising culture of fear and hatred towards equal access to representation in library materials. Equal representation uplifts the perspectives of marginalized communities that are historically silenced.

Amidst these threats, our commitment to the freedom to read and intellectual freedom remains unwavering. We strongly condemn any group or person who works to restrict the right to read of any person, especially our students who turn to their school libraries to provide an array of perspectives and voices during their most formative years. The perpetrator of this hate crime's only goal was to eradicate our students' fundamental right to read. This act is an unpatriotic effort to corrode our democratic society.

On November 18, 2021, the New York Library Association's Council adopted the following statement of position on Intellectual Freedom. In this statement, we reaffirmed that "...Libraries are unique institutions of education and knowledge that provide information with impartiality and balance. Library materials are carefully selected by professionally trained librarians to represent a broad range of ideas and opinions and appeal to the needs and interests of all members of their communities."