



## PRESS RELEASE

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BiasHELP, Inc. is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to preventing and addressing discrimination, harassment and violence. We are disturbed by the latest news of an alleged bias crime at the William Floyd High School in Mastic Beach. According to reports, on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, two men, who were not students of the school, chased and assaulted a student while using anti-gay comments. Concerns have been voiced in the media that the attack at William Floyd High School could have been avoided if they had a tolerance program in place.

BiasHELP has been working with the administration, faculty and students of William Floyd High School for a number of years and have been impressed with their sensitivity to the needs of all of their students. During that period we have conducted anti-bias educational programs and provided technical assistance, all in an effort to lessen the incidents of all hate related harassment and discrimination in the High School as well as in the Mastic Beach community.

Since the attack, BiasHELP has been in contact with school officials and will continue to work with the staff and students in order to address this incident and work to prevent future hate-related crimes.

We encourage our communities to join us in our fight to eliminate bias and hate crimes on Long Island. For more information on BiasHELP's anti-bias programming and efforts, please visit the website at [www.BiasHELP.org](http://www.BiasHELP.org) or call our toll free number at 877-END-BIAS (363-2427).