

*This letter ran on Windy City Times' website (without the links provided) on June 29, 2017:*

As anti-racist LGBTQIA+ organizers, we unequivocally stand with The Chicago Dyke March.

The Windy City Times journalism of last weekend's incident was sloppy at best, dangerous at worst. Overall, it was very disappointing as regular readers.

This controversy began with a rushed piece by WCT lacking in detail of the events that unfolded.

We need to address what was initially left out: Both before and after Saturday, CDM has received death and rape threats.

The WCT left out that those with the flags were known figures from Zionist organizations connected to hate groups profiled by the Southern Poverty Law Center. They left out that these individuals went to the event with full knowledge of the march's mission and acknowledged they anticipated it'd be a "[politically fraught atmosphere](#)."

The WCT left out that these individuals interrupted pro-Palestinian chants. They left out that mostly Jewish activists tried to have a dialogue with the flag wavers for literally two hours before asking them to leave. They left out that many other attendees wore Jewish symbols and imagery and have been doing so for years at the CDM with nothing but acceptance and affirmation. They left out the [history of dishonesty](#) by one of these flag bearers, once known for making false accusations at the 2016 Creating Change Conference.

What did get reported though? Jews were banned from a Chicago Pride event.

CDM organizers have been enduring increasing numbers death threats, which illustrates how this kind of journalism is irresponsible. It is a calamity compared to WCT's decades of coverage of LGBTQIA+ issues.

CDM [released a statement](#) alongside other solidarity letters from groups like [For the People's Artists Collective](#) and [Jewish Voice for Peace](#).

The lack of editorial procedures at Windy City Times to prevent such slanderous accounts is quite disturbing, and the Dyke March Collective is owed an apology by all concerned.

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