

To: rosenbury@barnard.edu, Lgrinage@barnard.edu, officeofthepresident@columbia.edu, gerry.rosberg@columbia.edu, kachani@columbia.edu, dmitchell@columbia.edu, calonso@columbia.edu

Subject: Urgent: Parent Concerns Regarding Disciplinary Actions On Students

Dear Presidents Rosenbury, Shafik and Deans Grinage Rosberg, Kachani, Mitchell and Alonso,

I am writing to you today as a deeply concerned parent of a [Columbia OR Barnard] student to express my profound horror and disappointment regarding the recent suspension of over one hundred Columbia University students and eviction of fifty-five students from Barnard College. As a parent invested in the well-being and academic success of my child, I find the actions taken by the administration to be unjust and deeply troubling.

The treatment of these students not only violates their rights but also undermines the principles of liberty, justice, and academic freedom that are fundamental to the educational mission of Barnard College. I made the decision to send my child to [Columbia OR Barnard] because of its renowned reputation for providing a nurturing and intellectually stimulating environment, and it is disheartening to witness the institution failing to uphold these values and punishing students for practicing such.

It is unacceptable that students, primarily women of color, are being subjected to such harsh treatment, including harassment, surveillance, and cruel punishment. Evicting students when they have nowhere to go with minimal resources is distasteful and disheartening. The increased presence of the NYPD on campus has only served to escalate tensions and create an atmosphere of fear and anxiety among students. Instead of fostering a safe and inclusive environment, these actions have transformed the campus into what feels like a military zone. This behavior has tarnished Columbia University and Barnard College. Your silence on the matter is further proof of your lack of prioritization of students. This is unacceptable.

I want to make it clear that I stand in solidarity with those who have been unfairly targeted, and as a parent, am voicing my concerns. My child does not feel safe on campus. I will ensure that prospective students and donors know about what the administration has done and I will withhold all donations from Columbia until these wrongful suspensions are revoked and all disciplinary actions dropped.

Columbia was my child's home but that safety has been stripped from them because your actions have demonstrated that safety is not promised at Barnard nor Columbia.

Sincerely,

Initials , (Parent of Barnard Student, class year)

