

YWCA Northern New Jersey, Dr. Chris T. Pernel, and Monique Joseph to Host Town Hall on Rising Bias Crimes and Racial Discrimination at Caldwell University

On Wednesday, February 8th, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Caldwell University, YWCA Northern New Jersey will conclude its **“Unite Against Hate: The State of Bias Crimes in NJ”** 4-part discussion series with opening remarks from **Matthew J. Platkin**, New Jersey Attorney General; **Dr. Chris T. Pernel**, physician leader; **Monique Joseph**, community activist and mom; **Dr. Lena Campagna**, Assistant Professor of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Caldwell University; and **Helen Archontou**, CEO of YWCA Northern New Jersey for a panel discussion focusing on racial discrimination in New Jersey.

The town hall will focus on the troubling surge of racially biased incidents happening across New Jersey. The New Jersey Attorney General’s Office [found that in 2021](#) the state recorded the most bias incidents since these records were collected starting in 1994 – a 29% increase from 2020. The discussion will spotlight the impacts racism has on the community, public health, and public safety. The effects of racial trauma have been [linked to poorer health outcomes in minority communities](#).

The conversation will focus on raising awareness and providing resources to the public. In addition, it will offer the public an opportunity to ask questions and engage with the panel on how to create a safer and more inclusive community. Registration can be found on [Eventbrite](#).

WHO

- **Helen Archontou**
CEO, YWCA Northern New Jersey
- **Dr. Chris T. Pernel**
Physician leader
- **Monique Joseph**
Mother and community activist, West Essex
- **Dr. Lena Campagna**
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Caldwell University
- **Matthew J. Platkin**
Attorney General, State of New Jersey

WHAT

In-person town hall on the rise in bias crimes and the harmful impacts of racial discrimination.

WHEN

Wednesday, February 8th
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

WHERE

Caldwell University, Alumni Theatre
120 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, NJ 07006