

EXETER TOWN HALL AGAINST BULLYING

1

Exeter school district town hall takes on bullying

[...] Some of the bullying symptoms identified by the members during the meeting were a general withdrawal among victims, taking different routes to and from school, not participating in school activities, loss of appetite, grade changes, moodiness or acting out at home, torn clothing in the case of physical bullying, playing sick to avoid going to school, and self-harm.

District Attorney Tim Ward also noted that warning signs of cyber bullying can be found in online comments and blogs, and encouraged parents to investigate their childrens' internet activity for clues as well.

The members moved on to discuss the importance of becoming an engaged advocate for victims, and shared ways that the community can take action. "What's important for us as law enforcement is that it's reported," said policeman Boudreaux. "Bullies are good at manipulation, and they're good at keeping it a secret and hiding it. If we can educate our students to report on behalf of those who are being bullied then that's a great thing."

DA Ward expressed frustration over the limitations of current laws on bullying, which require that the act meet a specific set of criteria before law enforcement can prosecute. Specifically, threats perceived as a bullying act must be "unequivocal, unconditional, and specific." [...]

-
1. What are the bullying symptoms?
 2. In which ways do you think a town hall should help in fighting bullying?
-
-

TORONTO TOWN HALL AGAINST RACISM

2

The Town Hall of Toronto hosted the Toronto Black Film Festival along all February 2018 as a response to fight racism through culture and entertainment. It's only been around for five years, but the Toronto Black Film Festival has become an essential part of the city's festival cycle, spun out of the Montreal International Black Film Festival with its own selection of features, shorts and documentaries from Canada and the rest of the world.

Sure, its placement in the middle of Black History Month means patrons risk lining up in the cold, but the programming is usually worth it. And the 2018 edition arrives as Ryan Coogler's Black Panther descends upon the world's megaplexes. Black filmmakers are getting their moment, and it's about damn time.

In addition to the films, the festival also includes weekend Black Market master classes with attending directors (Saturday February 17, 11 am, Carlton Cinemas) and producers (Sunday February 18, 11 am, Carlton Cinemas) and an on-stage conversation with this year's TBFF career achievement award winner, veteran casting director Robi Reed (Saturday, 2 pm, Jackman Hall).

-
1. Why did the Toronto Town Hall host the Black Film Festival?
 2. In which ways do you think your town hall could help in fighting racism?
-
-

DUBLIN TOWN HALL AGAINST RACISM

3

IRELAND'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT companies united today to launch a new public anti-racism campaign. **'We're all made of the same stuff'**: a new campaign is asking us to report racism on public transport. "Racism is in no way tolerated on Ireland's transport services," campaigners said.

In collaboration with the Immigrant Council of Ireland, Dublin City Council and Transport for Ireland, the campaign urges people to report any incidences of racial abuse – whether it's done to them or they witness it – on our public transport system.

The diverse nature of Ireland's transport workforce highlighted the need for such a campaign which is now in its fifth year, organisers said. As part of the initiative, a huge poster bearing the message **"We're all made of the same stuff: say no to racism"** has been placed on Dublin's Dame Street. [...]

-
1. Why did Ireland's public transport companies launch a campaign against racism?
 2. Do you think that it was a good idea? Explain why or why not.
-
-
-

DUBLIN TOWN HALL AGAINST RACISM

4

IRELAND'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT companies united today to launch a new public anti-racism campaign. **'We're all made of the same stuff'**: a new campaign is asking us to report racism on public transport. "Racism is in no way tolerated on Ireland's transport services," campaigners said.

In collaboration with the Immigrant Council of Ireland, Dublin City Council and Transport for Ireland, the campaign urges people to report any incidences of racial abuse – whether it's done to them or they witness it – on our public transport system.

The diverse nature of Ireland's transport workforce highlighted the need for such a campaign which is now in its fifth year, organisers said. As part of the initiative, a huge poster bearing the message **"We're all made of the same stuff: say no to racism"** has been placed on Dublin's Dame Street. [...]

-
1. Why did Ireland's public transport companies launch a campaign against racism?
 2. Do you think that it was a good idea? Explain why or why not.
-
-
-

AMERICAN TOWN HALLS FOR OUR LIVES

5

'Town Hall for Our Lives' held by students in the States nationwide to focus on gun reform.

Paul Ryan's Democratic challenger Randy Bryce said he believes there are "commonsense things that we can do to make our kids safe."

Susanna Bucklin, a high school senior in Janesville (Wisconsin) walked into House Speaker Paul Ryan's home office last week with a mission. Inspired by a call to action from survivors of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, Bucklin decided to help organize a town hall on gun reform and to invite her local officials.

"A town hall isn't a new concept but in the wake of all the recent tragedies it's something that's so important," she said, as more than a hundred people filed into a Janesville auditorium Saturday.

Across the country, students organized dozens of town halls Saturday under the banners of "Town Hall for Our Lives," a reference to the nationwide rally led by the Stoneman Douglas shooting survivors. They gave constituents a chance to speak with elected officials about the gun reform. Many attending blamed lax gun policies for the increase in mass shootings. [...]

-
1. What was Susanna Bucklin's mission?
 2. Do you think that a town hall can be a reference point in dealing in important issues?
-
-
-

FLORIDA TOWN HALL MEETINGS FOR CULTURE AND CHANGE

6

The Town Hall meeting is both a nostalgic and a contemporary activity. This is because some things don't change, despite change itself. Human need for connectivity and celebration is one of these staples of life. The simple need to connect in order to process life is intrinsic to who we are. In particular when a company is undergoing a significant shift, or change, or when it's struggling and needs the company to pull through, the time for human connection is all the more critical.

This is why I like the notion of calling a town hall a town hall at work. I've seen different names for such gatherings. Corporate meetings, report outs, state of the plants, all hands, and more. But my favorite corporate gathering was one I used to host with a leader every two months. We called it a Town Hall Meeting. The cool thing about our Town Hall is that we pulled it off quite successfully with only a fifth or so of our team together live, and the rest were virtual across over a couple dozen states. But we were able to create a simple routine that engaged celebration, business and discussion virtually. The action of coming together regularly (quarterly at a minimum - hopefully more often) is a simple way to invite your team to join the vision of change [...]

-
1. Why does the author describe the town hall as a town hall at work?
 2. Do you think that town hall meetings are useful? Give your reasons.
-
-
-

FLORIDA TOWN HALL MEETINGS FOR CULTURE AND CHANGE

A good town hall meeting has some simple but effective elements.

The first is a standard template or ritual to go through. If the meeting can be a dependable event with a bit of tradition, it's at least one constant in the midst of change. People like some tradition when it comes to gathering together.

The second element is celebration. Celebrate new hires. Celebrate work anniversaries. Celebrate break through ideas and team accomplishments. Start off with the celebration and don't be loose with rewards and monetary recognition.

Then the third is the business report out. Be honest about what is going on in the business. Be thorough in report outs about financials and state of business.

The fourth element is an invitation to collaborate and build together. Here's where the soul of engagement occurs. Change fails if top leaders shout the plan and cascade down. Change succeeds when team input is solicited and feedback is received and applied even if a correction in course is required.

-
1. What are the main elements of a good town hall meeting?
 2. In which way would you lead a meeting in your town hall?
-
-
-

EDINBURGH TOWN HALL AGAINST MUSLIM HATE CAMPAIGN

8

An anti-racism campaign group is holding a protest against a hate campaign urging people to "punish Muslim". Stand Up To Racism Edinburgh will hold a Stand Up To Islamophobia Day Event in Scotland's capital city on Tuesday, one of a series of similar events across Britain.

The protest aims to counteract the twisted social media and letter hate campaign which allocates points for crimes against Muslims. The Muslim Women's Association is encouraging people to get involved with their Love A Muslim Day campaign on the same date. A spokeswoman said: "We are asking supporters to post positive messages to Muslims on social media throughout the day on Tuesday, April 3rd".

The perpetrator of the hate letter is inciting hatred and violence and this act must be prosecuted as a hate crime. Police have advised people to go about their daily lives but remain vigilant, and have committed a "substantial" response to dealing with the campaign. Among the incidents are said to include a woman being punched in the face outside a supermarket, another woman racially abused by three men and assaulted on a train and a schoolboy asked a young girl if he could pull her hijab off and film it to earn "points" for the campaign.

-
1. What is the Stand Up To Racism campaign about?
 2. What would you suggest to your Town Hall to fight racism?
-
-