

Shut Down Milo Yiannopoulos this Wednesday

No Racist, Sexist Hate at Michigan State!

Milo Yiannopoulos intends to speak at the MSU Conrad Hall on December 7 at 7pm. Arrive early at 5pm. This event must not go forward on this campus.

Michigan State University plans to host an event by Milo Yiannopoulos, a demagogue whose speaking tour, the “Dangerous Faggot Tour,” has incited a rash of hate crimes and physical confrontations at numerous universities. The University of Manchester in Britain and many campuses in the U.S. have cancelled his engagements. Yiannopoulos notoriously riles up a lynch mob mentality in his audiences, promoting violence, rape, harassment, and repression against minorities, women, and immigrants. His “speeches” are a bombast of racial and sexual slurs, provocations, and curse-laden threats. His various YouTube videos are a catalogue of hate and bigotry: “...why black lives don’t matter...,” “10 things I hate about Islam,” “Feminism is Cancer for Men..and Women...,” etc. The Yiannopoulos persona is a twisted, idiosyncratic brand of sociopathology, sporting a “fashy” (fascist-like) hairstyle, the maniacal humor of those who laugh while watching others burn and suffer, and the spiteful angst of a mass shooter—a mash-up of Hitler, the Joker, and an adolescent internet troll. Now an editor for Breitbart, his career and infamy began through his internet harassment campaign against women and led to his prominence as an “alt-right” personality, news editor, and Trump ally.

The Milo Yiannopoulos tour represents an imminent, physical threat to the students and faculty of Michigan State University. By hosting the event, the MSU administration would be giving direct license to the incitement of hate and terror across the campus. Hate speech is not free speech—a primary aim of demagogues like Yiannopoulos is to repress and silence the speech of minorities and women, to eradicate from all social life everything that Yiannopoulos labels as “political correctness.” His aim is to create a hostile climate in which free speech becomes impossible, in which the rights and obligations of civil discourse can no longer be upheld because civil discourse itself will cease to exist.

Michigan State University should follow the example of other campuses that have canceled the tour engagements of Milo Yiannopoulos: NYU, University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University, Villanova University, and the University of Maryland. The alternative is the prospect of clashes between white and minority students, as occurred at places like DePaul University, the University of California, Irvine, Rutgers University and others. Yiannopoulos incited, escalated, and promoted the confrontations, as his audiences chanted “grab her by the pussy!” and other hate speech. This is not an event that any college campus should condone—it is a threat to the safety and wellbeing of the students and faculty, and a threat to the academic mission to promote learning and leadership. The confrontations will not be confined to the time and place of the event; hate crimes will escalate, and innocent people will suffer verbal or physical abuses. This is the established pattern of the Milo Yiannopoulos tour—that hateful pattern must be broken at MSU.

Students and faculty must also stand up against the proliferation of hate and the prospect of a lynch-mob, race-riot mentality spreading across campus. The instigator of this phenomenon must be stopped. Milo Yiannopoulos intends to speak at the MSU Conrad Hall on December 7 at 7pm. This event must not go forward on this campus. MSU is a diverse, international community, with students of many nationalities, ethnicities, religions, and cultures. We must defend the very best of that tradition now, against the threat that Yiannopoulos or other demagogues may seize upon the current political climate to build a fascist youth movement in America. The threat is real. Our stand must be clear: no racist, sexist hate at Michigan State.

* Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration and Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality - By Any Means Necessary (BAMN)

* ASMSU Black Student Alliance Representative

* Students for Justice in Palestine MSU

* Students Organize for Syria at MSU

* Asian Pacific American Student Organization MSU

* Which Side MSU?