

# UCSF GME Responds to Zoom Bombing

Zoom-bombing is the term for when individuals "gate-crash" Zoom meetings. These uninvited guests share their screens to bombard real attendees with disturbing racist, pornographic and/or violent imagery or use audio to verbally insult and harass other guests. Most of these are perpetrated via publicly available Zoom links. There are ways to protect you and your guests.

While it goes without saying, that hate language is not permitted nor condoned at UCSF, it is still important to respond to these incidents of hate. **Responding brings repair to those who are harmed.** This is an opportunity to be an ally.

1. Recognize and acknowledge this has occurred. Hate speech can traumatize. Individuals are impacted in varying ways to hearing or seeing the same things. Recognize, that while it may not have impacted you considerably, to others it can affecting them in the immediate time and days to weeks later. People experience these events differently and for some it can trigger previous incidents of racism, bias and discrimination.
2. Marginalized people and groups are disproportionately impacted and targeted. These incidents are not, "a fluke" or "some troublemakers" playing a prank. This is systematic targeting and oppression of marginalized groups and institutions of higher education by hate groups and the Alt Right. The FBI considers this a crime and has developed an investigating unit.
3. There are steps each zoom meeting host can take to mitigate this from happening. Most importantly, **do not share links to zoom meetings on social media.** UCSF has created other useful tips found [here](#).
4. Report each incident by contacting the UCSF IT department at: [HERE](#)
5. As zoom meeting hosts and as educators, we have a responsibility to our community to respond when it happens. **Responding brings repair to those who are harmed.** This is an opportunity to be an ally.

Useful phrasing includes:

- That's horrible!
- I'm sorry you were subjected to this language/images.
- This will be reported.
- I'm available as a resource and I can offer you some other resources including: [UCSF OPHD Resources](#), [COVID-19 Emotional and Wellbeing Resources](#), [GME SAFE Reporting](#).

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