Residence Halls Association

Assembly Resolution 61 – 01

Resolution for the Support of the Creation of ME/NA Racial Category on Official University Forms

Sponsored by Dylan Rushton, RHA President
Thursday, November 2nd, 2017

WHEREAS, the University of Michigan has committed to improving diversity and inclusion through the planning and implementation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) plan; **AND**

WHEREAS, the University auxiliary department of Housing has developed its own strategic plan for DEI which is to be implemented throughout the residence halls; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Housing DEI plan notes that Housing "commit[s] to increasing diversity which is expressed in myriad forms, including race and ethnicity" and "to pursuing deliberate efforts to ensure that our campus is a place where differences are welcomed… and where every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion."[1]; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Middle Eastern and North African (ME/NA) Communities have frequently noted their concerns of being included in the category of White and have expressed a desire to have their identity recognized; **AND**

WHEREAS, students from these backgrounds have to identify with a group they do not align with on many official documents as well as University forms and applications; **AND**

WHEREAS, the US Census Bureau recognizes the need for such a classification and intends to implement such in the 2020 census[2]; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Islamophobia Working Group has explicitly identified this as a clear way to improve climate for ME/NA students [3]; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that RHA calls upon University Housing to include a ME/NA option in all documentation and applications; **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that RHA calls upon the University to include a ME/NA option in all documentation and applications;

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[1] Housing DEI Strategic Plan
[2] 2020 Census
[3] Islamophobia Working Group DEI Report

As approved by the Assembly;
And witnessed by the Chair.

Ryan Rich	29/0/1	11/2/17
Chair	Vote	Date