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At the same meeting where the president of Brigham Young University announced a new "Office of Belonging," a church elder railed against LGBTQ+ rights.

BY ALEX COOPER
AUGUST 24 2021 4:47 PM EST

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The new office will provide services and programs focused on making the school inclusive, according to a [university press release](#). The office's creation follows a report from BYU's Committee on Race, Equity and Belonging that was finished in February.

Worthen said the Office of Belonging will not only seek to root out racism but also to work against "prejudice of any kind, including that based on race, ethnicity, nationality, tribe, gender, age, disability, socioeconomic status, religious belief and sexual orientation." Gender identity was not specifically mentioned by Worthen.

At the same ceremony for faculty and staff that Worthen spoke at, a Church of Latter Day Saints leader, Jeff Roy Holland, discussed what he said was "friendly fire" from BYU faculty and staff over the church's position on topics including same-sex marriage, reported TV

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"We must have the will to stand alone, to be different, if necessary. Being a university second to none in its role primarily as an undergraduate teaching institution that is unequivocally true to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. If at a future time, that mission means forgoing some professional affiliations and certifications, then so be it," Holland **said**. University faculty and staff should take up their intellectual "muskets" to defend the Mormon Church, especially "the doctrine of the family and...marriage as the union of a man and a woman."

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that he was proud of what he did.

"I wasn't trying to grandstand or 'commandeer' the event. I drew on my personal

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"Being **LGBTQ+** is not a challenge' and Holland's statement and overall speech demonstrates the 'unkindness' and 'crushing cruel[ty]' that he claims to condemn," says @PaulSouthwick about Elder Jeffrey Holland's inflammatory anti-#LGBTQ comments. Statement: <https://t.co/HtUzV7QOaM>

— Religious Exemption Accountability Project (@Religious Exemption Accountability Project)

34103

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In a statement, the Religious Exemption Accountability Project's director Paul Southwick called the remarks by Holland "antagonistic" and "warlike."

"Every student should have the freedom to be honest and open about who they are, without being subjected to dangerous rhetoric that puts them in harm's way. All students should feel safe in their campus environments," Southwick said.

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unconditional love and acceptance."

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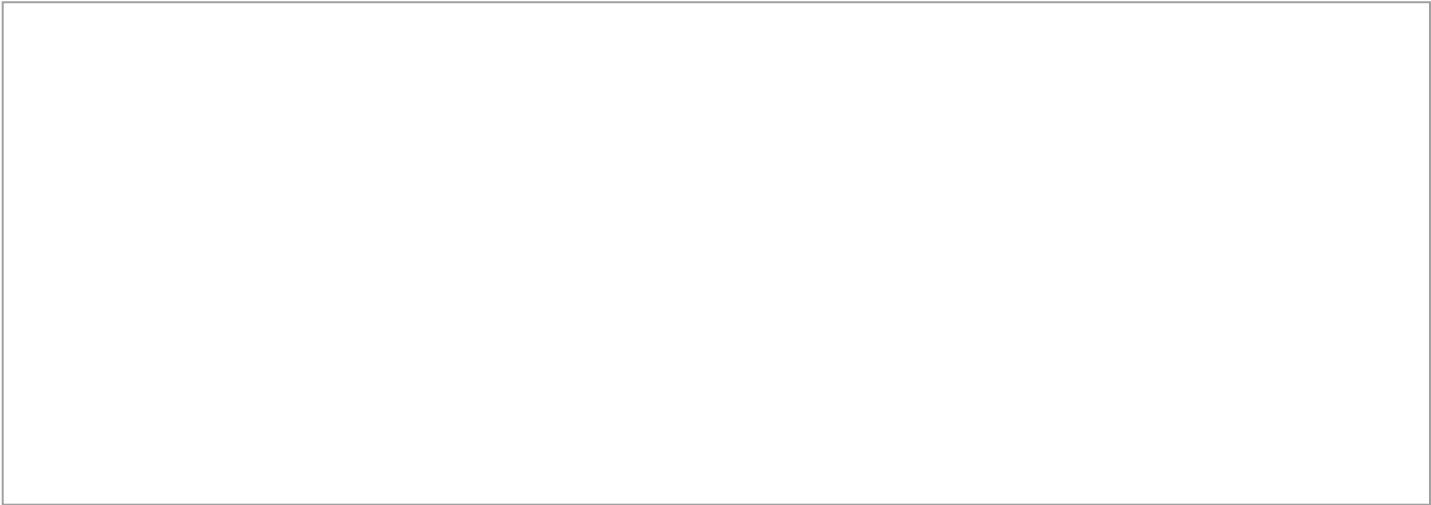
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FILM 

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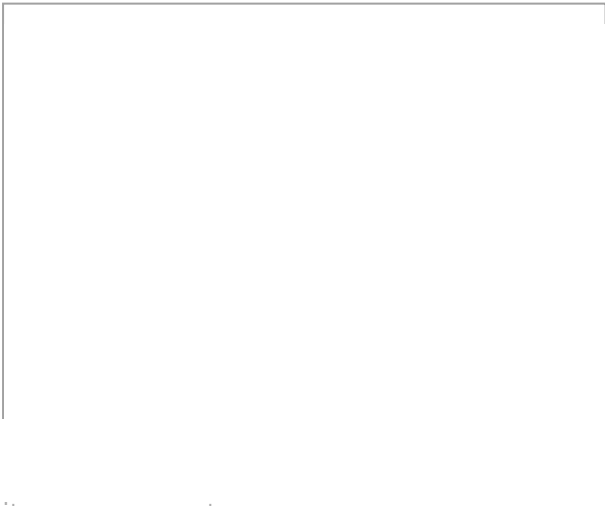
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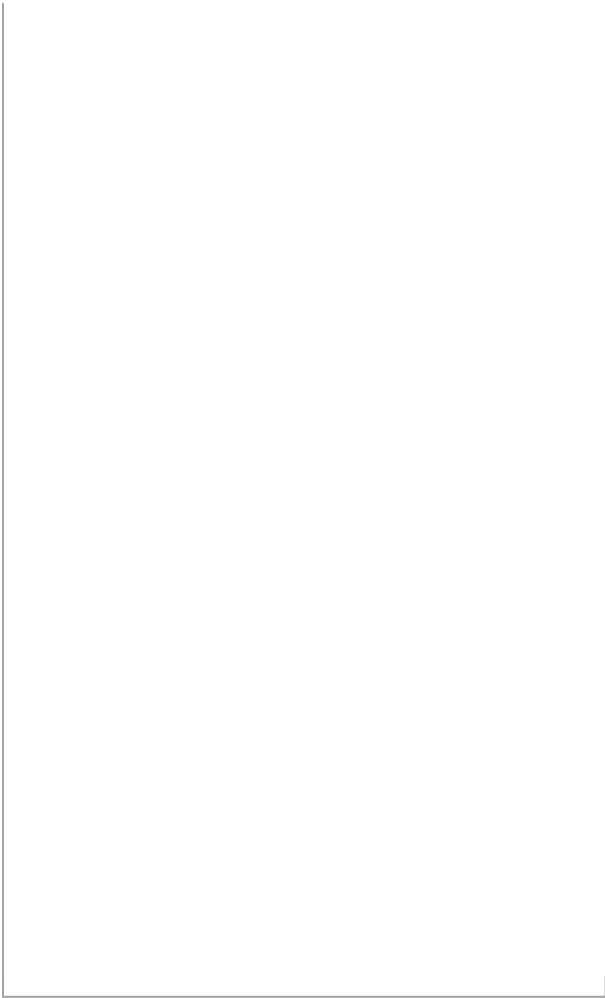
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SEPTEMBER 06 2023 10:01 PM

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Elon Musk Agrees to Libs of TikTok Request for X 'Data Dump' on Anti- Defamation League

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