



Harvard rescinds admission to Parkland survivor Kyle Kashuv past comments

BY JESSICA CAMPISI - 06/17/19 10:26 AM EDT

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A survivor of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting said Monday that Harvard University has rescinded his acceptance after recently surfaced screenshots showed him using racial slurs a few months before the 2018 massacre in Parkland, Fla.

Kyle Kashuv, 18, who was admitted to Harvard earlier this year, wrote on Twitter that he had been made aware of "egregious and callous comments" he made when he was 16 years old.



Kyle Kashuv
@KyleKashuv

1/ THREAD: Harvard rescinded my acceptance.

Three months after being admitted to Harvard Class of 2023, I decided to rescind my admission over texts and audio made nearly two years ago, months prior to the

thoughts. Here's what happened.

10 AM - Jun 17, 2019

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had accused him of repeatedly using the N-word, according to the [New York Times](#) and [HuffPost](#).



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Kashuv, a gun rights activist, later posted on Twitter explaining his previous remarks, saying “we were 16-year-olds making idiotic comments” and that he was “embarrassed by it,” adding that “the comments I made are not indicative of who I am or who I’ve become in the years since.”

“When your classmates, your teachers, and your neighbors are killed it transforms you as a human being,” he wrote. “I can and will do better moving forward.”

After widespread national coverage of the comments, as well as dozens of individuals [calling on Harvard](#) to rescind Kashuv’s admission to the school, the university sent him a letter dated May 24 saying it “reserves the right to withdraw an offer of admission” and asked for a written explanation within 72 hours.

In his response to Harvard, Kashuv apologized “unequivocally” for his previous actions and said he’d reached out to the college’s Office of Diversity Education and Support to “begin a dialogue that I hope will be the foundation of future growth.”

In a letter dated June 3, Harvard notified Kashuv that it was rescinding his acceptance.

“As you know, the Committee takes seriously the qualities of maturity and moral character,” Harvard wrote in the letter, which Kashuv posted to Twitter. “We are sorry about the circumstances that have led us to withdraw your admission, and we wish you success in your future academic endeavors and beyond.”

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Kyle Kashuv @KyleKashuv · Jun 17, 2019
Replying to @KyleKashuv
6/ I also sent an email to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to seek guidance on how to right this wrong and work with them once I was on campus.



become in the future.

I am deeply sorry for my past comments, I know I am not the same person. But I realize there is always more I can do to understand and learn about the struggle and pain of minority communities in America and worldwide. During my gap year, I will supplement my activism to include reaching out to minority communities. I am open to any advice or suggestions on activities I might pursue during my gap year in pursuit of that goal. I am committed to engaging on this issue, and I plan to visit your office when I arrive at Harvard in the fall of 2020 after I complete my gap year.

Sincerely,

Kyle Kashuv
@KyleKashuv

7/ Harvard decided to rescind my admission with the following letter.

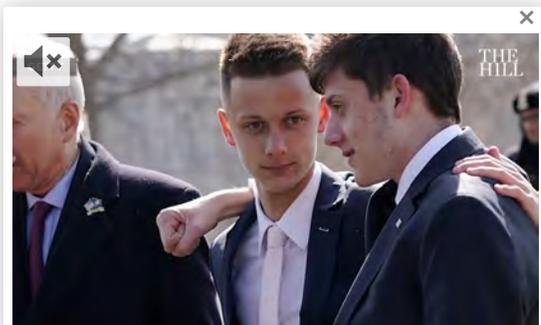
6,667 9:00 AM - Jun 17, 2019



1,666 people are talking about this

Kashuv said he emailed William Fitzsimmons, Harvard's dean of admissions, asking for an in-person meeting to "make my case face to face and work towards any possible path of reconciliation." Fitzsimmons rejected the request, according to Kashuv.

In a written statement to The Hill, Harvard spokeswoman Rachael Dane said, "we do not comment publicly on the admissions status of individual applicants."



...saying that someone can't grow, especially after a life-altering shooting, is deeply concerning," Kashuv tweeted. "If anyone could understand growth, it's Harvard, which is looked to as the best of higher education despite its checkered past."

...in the end, this isn't about me, it's about whether we live in a world in which forgiveness is possible or mistakes brand you as a person, as Harvard has decided for me."



Kyle Kashuv @KyleKashuv · Jun 17, 2019

Replying to @KyleKashuv

11/ Throughout its history, Harvard's faculty has included slave owners, segregationists, bigots and antisemites. If Harvard is suggesting that growth isn't possible and that our past defines our future, then Harvard is an inherently racist institution.

But I don't believe that.



Kyle Kashuv
@KyleKashuv

12/ I believe that institutions and people can grow. I've said that repeatedly.

In the end, this isn't about me, it's about whether we live in a society in which forgiveness is possible or mistakes brand you as irredeemable, as Harvard has decided for me.

12.1K 9:00 AM - Jun 17, 2019

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-- Updated at 10:50 a.m.

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