



Goldsmiths Students' Union Policy

Goldsmiths Students' Union Student Assembly

Motion proposed by Tamara White

Motion Title:

Safe Space Policy

Union Notes:

1. A safe space policy is all about creating an open and welcoming environment within our Union so that all our members feel able to participate.
2. That we refer to our "Safe Space Policy" as a concept, not as a physical document.

Union Believes:

1. Adopting this policy will ensure that there are obvious principles to which all aspects of GSU must subscribe.

Union Resolves:

1. To adopt the Safe Space Policy below

Context

Goldsmiths Students' Union (GSU) recognises that systematic oppression excludes certain groups whilst providing others with unequal power. The safe space policy is designed to protect oppressed groups and enable their full participation in the student union. GSU is committed to operating as a space which is inclusive and supportive in which no forms of discrimination are tolerated.

Racism, homophobia, biphobia, sexism, transphobia, disablism or prejudice based on age, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, gender presentation, language ability, immigration status or religious affiliation is unacceptable and will be challenged

A safe space policy is all about creating an open and welcoming environment within our

Union so that all our members feel able to participate.

With this in mind we ask all students, staff and visitors to adhere to this policy, it is mandatory that all official union activity is carried out in accordance with this policy. This policy also extends to all online resources (Facebook, Twitter, Website etc).

Safe Space Guidelines

Be aware of the connotations of your language. Many common expressions use discriminatory language so think before speaking. Be aware of the language you use in discussion and how you relate to others. Try to speak slowly and clearly and use uncomplicated language.

Do not make assumptions about anyone's gender, pronouns, sexual preference, abilities, ethnic identity, survivor status, or life experiences. Do not be derogatory to anyone about these things.

Be prepared to challenge hateful, discriminatory, or oppressive language.

If you are challenged, do not become defensive, but listen and think and learn.

Respect each other's physical and emotional boundaries, always get explicit verbal consent before touching someone or crossing boundaries.

If a discussion becomes personal, we trust that participants will keep what is said inside the room and behave with kindness and consideration when responding.

Participants should be considerate of how much they are speaking to avoid dominating the conversation, and avoid interrupting other people who are sharing their views. We encourage participants to listen to views which are different from their own, but feel confident in expressing opposition in a non-confrontational way.

Harassment, hostility and aggression will not be tolerated in any form and if we feel that you have overstepped

these boundaries we will challenge this and you may be asked to leave.

Implementation

GSU recognises discrimination can occur wherever it is not consciously challenged.

Upholding this policy is a collective responsibility and people should be confident in challenging any behaviour which contravenes this policy. We also, however, recognise that individuals should be responsible for their own behaviour.

Should you feel that the policy has been breached and appropriate action was not taken at the time, speak to the event organiser, one of the elected officers of the union, duty manager or head of security. All concerns will be taken seriously and dealt with in accordance with our comments and complaints procedures.