

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON *PREVENT* AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (CPEE)**

**Approval of Queens' College Statement on Freedom of Speech**

The *PREVENT* and Freedom of Expression Committee (CPEE) recommends the emendments highlighted in the College Statement on Freedom of Speech. The Governing Body is requested to approve the proposed changes.

24 October 2019

Prof Dixon  
Mr Bainbridge  
(Revd Harling)  
(Dr Kelly)  
(Dr Rossi)  
Dr Zurcher  
Mr Ackernley  
Ms Jia  
Mr Golden  
(Mr Steward)

QUEENS' COLLEGE

STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH

**Introduction**

1. Colleges are required by law to outline principles governing the right to freedom of speech in the context of other legal responsibilities laid upon the institution set out variously in the *Education Act.2* (1986), section 43, the *Equality Act* (2010), and the *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act* 2015.

2. Queens' statement outlines the principles of free speech which apply to all members of the College, and which also apply to all who visit the College.

**Principles**

3. Queens' College is strongly committed to the principle of freedom of speech and expression. The College seeks to sustain an environment wherein all its members may participate fully in the life of the society. Each member may enjoy the right to research, to question and test received wisdom, to express new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions without fear of isolation, marginalisation, or discrimination. Equally, the College expects its members to receive and respond to intellectual and ideological challenges in a constructive and peaceable way. At the same time the College also acknowledges its statutory duties in protecting its members, and others, from 'radicalisation' which in this context means incitement to support terrorism or to commit acts of terrorism.

4. Subject to the provisions in paragraph 3 above, the College will not unreasonably withhold its premises and facilities to any member or members on account of their views, beliefs, objectives or policies.

5. In holding to these principles, the College will reconcile its obligations regarding freedom of speech, the management of the health and safety of its members and the general public, the promotion of equal opportunities and the prevention of discrimination on the grounds of belief, race, gender, sexual orientation and all other legally-protected characteristics.

~~6. The College reserves the right to refuse access to its premises if it is of the opinion that a visiting speaker, or the purpose of any meeting, is likely to incite a crime or cause a breach of the peace.~~

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**Policies and Procedures**

7. In assessing risk of incitement and in assessing the risk of harm to its members and to the general public the College publishes policies and procedures governing the conduct of its members and the management of College events at which controversial views may be expressed. Chief among these are the following policy documents and rules of procedure:

*PREVENT POLICIES and PROCEDURES*

CM 3465. *Queens' College Harassment Policy.*

[http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/files/downloads/revised\\_policy.\\_harassment\\_0.pdf#overlay-context=life-at-queens/documents-policy/official-documents](http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/files/downloads/revised_policy._harassment_0.pdf#overlay-context=life-at-queens/documents-policy/official-documents)

CM 3567. *Rules of Procedure Governing the Management of External Events and External Speakers.*

CM 3568. *Rules of Procedure Governing the Management of the Chaplaincy and the Activities of Faith-Based Groups.*

*The Student Handbook: Information and Regulations 2015-16.*

[http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/files/downloads/student\\_handbook\\_15-16-final-amended\\_2.10.15.pdf#overlay-context=life-at-queens/documents-policy/official-documents](http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/files/downloads/student_handbook_15-16-final-amended_2.10.15.pdf#overlay-context=life-at-queens/documents-policy/official-documents)