



Safe Space Policy

CHESTER STUDENTS' UNION

Passed at

Student Council on 16/05/18

Trustee Board on 18/06/18

The Chester Students' Union Safe Space Policy

This policy is about creating an open and welcoming environment within the Students' Union so that all members, staff and visitors feel able to participate. With this in mind, all students, staff and visitors are expected 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.).

The safe space policy is designed to protect excluded groups and enable their full participation in the Students' Union. CSU is committed to operating as a space which is inclusive and supportive in which no forms of discrimination are tolerated.

Commitment to Safe Spaces: CSU is committed to our core value of inclusivity and believes all students should be free from intimidation or harassment, resulting from prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, marital or maternity/paternity status, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, ideology or culture, or any other form of distinction.

Chester Students' Union:

- I. Is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive space for all students, members, visitors and staff. This policy is applicable to our whole student community, whether an individual or a member within a group.
- II. This policy covers any Students' Union event, activity or space.
- III. Aspires to provide an environment where students can express their views free from discrimination, harassment and bullying.
- IV. Believes 'Freedom of Lawful Speech' should be respected as well as recognising its boundaries.
- V. Respects our diverse population and takes a zero tolerance approach to discrimination in all instances.
- VI. Is committed to creating a safe, open-minded, inclusive and welcoming environment, in which members can study, live and work in an atmosphere of respect and tolerance.

Safe Space Rules

- Be aware of the connotations of your language and actions
- Many common expressions use offensive language, so think before speaking.
- Be aware of the language you use in discussions and how you might relate to others.
- Try to speak slowly and clearly and use words and phrases understood by everyone involved.
- Respect everybody regardless of their gender, pronouns, sexual preference, abilities, ethnic identity, survivor status, or life experiences.
- Simply ask if you are unsure how to approach any situation, do not be afraid to ask.
- Conversations about differing viewpoints are fine, as long as the conversations are civil and do not target specific individuals or groups of people.

This policy covers any Students' Union event, activity or space.

Reporting a Breach of Policy / Making a Complaint

To report a breach of policy or make a complaint, please follow the procedure below:

<https://www.chestersu.com/pageassets/your-union/csupolicies/Complaints-Policy-March-2016.pdf>

You can email Chester Students' Union Chief executive: g.pye@chester.ac.uk – Gareth Pye.

For all other enquiries please get in touch with:

The President: SUPresident@chester.ac.uk

Vice President Education: SUEducation@chester.ac.uk