



PREVENT: Statement on Freedom of Speech

Context

1. Colleges are required by law to outline principles for their members in relation to their right to freedom of speech in the context of other legal responsibilities of the College. This Statement takes into account the specific legal responsibilities, as set out in Section 43 of the Education (No 2) Act 1986, the Equality Act 2010 and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
2. This Statement outlines the principles of free speech which apply (i) to all Fellows, staff and students of the College, and (ii), when on College premises or at College events, to Fellows, staff and students of other Cambridge colleges, members and staff of the University of Cambridge, and visiting speakers (i.e. speakers who are not Fellows, staff or students of another Cambridge college, or members or staff of the University of Cambridge).

Principles

3. Magdalene College is strongly committed to the principle of freedom of speech and expression. It fosters an environment where all of its Fellows, staff and students can participate fully in the life of the College, and where each individual feels confident and able to research, question and test received wisdom, and to express new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without fear of isolation, marginalisation or discrimination. Equally, the College expects its Fellows, staff and students to receive and respond to intellectual and ideological challenges in a constructive and peaceable way. The College also acknowledges its statutory duties in protecting its Fellows, staff, students and other people from 'radicalisation', which in this context means being drawn in by others to support terrorism, or to commit acts of terrorism.
4. Subject to paragraph 3 above, no premises of the College will be denied to any Fellow, member of staff, or student of the College, or to any body of such people, by reason of the beliefs or views of that individual or of that body or the policy or objectives of that body.
5. In holding to these key principles, Magdalene College will take into account its obligations regarding freedom of speech, the management of the health and safety of its Fellows, staff and students, and of the general public, the promotion of equal opportunities and prevention of discrimination on the grounds of belief, race, gender or sexual orientation or other legally-protected characteristics, and its duties associated with preventing people from being drawn into terrorism or the promotion of terrorist activities.

As an example of this, 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 a meeting is likely to give rise to the incitement of crime and/or is likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Policies and procedures

6. In determining the likelihood of risk of harm to Fellows, staff or students of the College, and/or the general public, or of Fellows, staff or students of the College being drawn into terrorism, or otherwise promoting any violent or illegal action, Magdalene College publishes policies and/or procedures to set out and manage:
 - a) the behavioural expectations of students and student unions;
 - b) the management of College events at which controversial views may be expressed (whether or not they are held at the College); and
 - c) the management and conduct of visiting speakers at meetings held within the College.