

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Civility on Campus

The University places a high premium on core values that define universities the world over. Academic freedom and freedom of expression are core values that the University seeks to fully protect. Equally important are values such as honesty, integrity, decency, dignity, tolerance, respect, civility and trust.

2. In order to uphold and protect freedom of expression, the University undertakes to promote civility on campus. At its meeting on September 3, 2019, the Senate agreed that the following expressions, in any form, be regarded as transgressing basic notions of civility:

- disclosure of information which infringes privacy of any individual;
- abusive, offensive, obscene or threatening language and expressions directed at a person or group;
- defamation of a person or group; and
- hate speech.

3. With regard to hate speech, the Senate has resolved to adopt the United Nations (2019) definition which reads:

“The term hate speech is understood as any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other identity factor.”

4. The University makes all attempts to promote civility on campus, and adopts a zero-tolerance approach to hate speech. It requires all responsible units to ensure that the transgressions of basic notions of civility listed in paragraph 2 above are not permitted on campus.

September 4, 2019