

Freedom of Speech Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

The freedom of speech policy aims to uphold and protect the freedom of speech within the context of the Polish University Abroad (PUNO), an educational charity regulated by the Charity Commission. This policy applies to all individuals affiliated to / volunteering at PUNO.

2. Free speech

PUNO facilitates free speech within the bounds of the law. This includes not only ideas or information that are favourably received, but also those that may be controversial. PUNO is committed to foster robust and civil debate.

3. PUNO is not a public square

PUNO defends and promotes free speech, but it is not a public square. PUNO, as an educational institution provides certain authority and legitimacy to the views which may be attached to it. PUNO also provides an audience for the speakers it hosts. PUNO is not obliged to host individuals who promote views at odds with verifiable objective facts or who have no recognised expertise in a particular academic field.

4. Institutional Neutrality

While members of PUNO have the right to express their views and arguments within the bounds prescribed by law, the institution, remains neutral in its outlook, and adheres to relevant legislation including, *inter alia*, Charity Act (2011), Equality Act (2010).

5. Academic Freedom

See PUNO's Academic Freedom Policy

6. Student Activities

Students, if referring to PUNO, or acting under the PUNO banner, have the right to express their views freely within the framework of PUNO's policies (and in accordance with the legislation of England and Wales, most importantly the Equality Act (2010) and the Charity Act (2011)).

7. Specific Restrictions on Freedom of Speech

Although freedom of speech is highly valued, there are some limited restrictions in certain circumstances. Speech that incites prejudice, violence, poses a direct threat to the safety of individuals, constitutes unlawful harassment, or violates any relevant laws will be subject to appropriate action

8. Resolving Disputes

The PUNO Senate is empowered to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees in regards to disputes relating to freedom of speech. The final decision relating to such disputes is made by the Board of Trustees.

9. Policy Review

This freedom of speech policy will be periodically reviewed and updated, taking into account changes in legislation, best practice, and feedback from the PUNO community. PUNO will review the policy every 2 years.

Recommended by: PUNO Safeguard Lead Katarzyna Karita

Endorsed by: PUNO Senate

Approved and Authorised by: PUNO's Trustees