

## **Guild Statement on Freedom of Expression**

At Liverpool Guild of Students, we are proud to be a democratic, student-led organisation and it is part of our aims as a registered charity to provide opportunities for students to express opinions and to actively represent, support and advise them. We are committed to creating a vibrant culture on campus where students can engage in challenging and important conversations on a wide range of topics without fear of harassment or intimidation. This is reflected in our Mission and Values, which we work towards as an organisation.

The Guild has a legal responsibility to protect Freedom of Expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is included in the UK's Human Rights Act (1988). We comply with the University's Policy and Code of Practice Regarding Freedom of Speech, which specifically emphasises our responsibility and legal duty to protect freedom of speech - and we take our obligations to do this very seriously.

Under the Equality Act (2010), The Guild also has a duty to protect students from harassment related to any aspect of their identity including age, disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. This is because, like the right to freedom of expression, the right of each person to be protected from discrimination and violence are fundamental human rights.

The Guild supports these rights in line with UK law. In situations where legislation may be conflicting, our approach has always been to work directly with students in consultative, inclusive and transparent way to ensure events and speakers can go ahead in a respectful way within the law.

For more information on the legislation Student Unions and Universities must follow please see this [report from the Equality and Human Rights Commission](#).