

NIU Debating Society

Code of Conduct

1. Purpose and Scope

The University Debating Society is committed to fostering an environment that promotes intellectual growth, respect, and integrity. This Code of Conduct outlines the principles and expectations for all members and participants. It applies to all activities, including debates, meetings, and social events organized by the society.

2. Respect and Inclusivity

- **Respect for All Participants:** Treat all members, guests, and opponents with respect, regardless of their background, opinions, or identity. Personal attacks, discriminatory remarks, and harassment are strictly prohibited.
- **Inclusivity:** Embrace diversity in all its forms. Encourage participation from individuals of different backgrounds, including but not limited to race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

3. Integrity and Honesty

- **Accuracy:** Ensure that all arguments, statistics, and evidence presented are accurate and verifiable. Misleading information, falsified data, or plagiarism is unacceptable.
- **Fair Play:** Engage in debates with integrity. Avoid tactics designed to unfairly undermine opponents, such as interrupting them excessively or misrepresenting their arguments.

4. Professional Conduct

- **Preparation:** Come prepared for debates, having researched the topic thoroughly and developed clear arguments. Be ready to defend your position with evidence and logical reasoning.

- **Punctuality:** Arrive on time for all scheduled meetings, debates, and events. Notify the relevant organizers if you are unable to attend.
- **Dress Code:** Adhere to the specified dress code for formal debates and events, if applicable. For informal meetings, maintain a level of dress appropriate for a professional environment.

5. Debate Etiquette

- **Constructive Dialogue:** Focus on constructive discussion rather than personal disagreements. Aim to engage in debates that are intellectually stimulating and respectful.
- **Turn-Taking:** Allow others to speak without interruption and listen actively. Use designated times for rebuttals and questions.
- **Feedback:** Provide constructive feedback in a manner that is supportive and aimed at improvement. Avoid derogatory or overly critical comments.

6. Confidentiality and Privacy

- **Confidential Information:** Respect the confidentiality of discussions held in private settings. Do not disclose sensitive information or personal details without permission.
- **Privacy:** Obtain consent before sharing any photographs, recordings, or personal anecdotes related to society activities on social media or other public platforms.

7. Dispute Resolution

- **Handling Disputes:** Address conflicts or grievances professionally and privately. If necessary, seek mediation from society officers or a designated committee.
- **Reporting Misconduct:** Report any breaches of this Code of Conduct to the society's executive committee or designated officer. All reports will be reviewed fairly and confidentially.

8. Social Responsibility

- **Community Engagement:** Contribute positively to the university and local community. Participate in outreach programs or initiatives that promote the values of the debating society.
- **Environmental Awareness:** Consider the environmental impact of society events and activities. Strive to minimize waste and promote sustainability.

9. Enforcement and Consequences

- **Compliance:** All members are expected to comply with this Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- **Consequences:** Depending on the severity of the breach, consequences may include a warning, suspension, or expulsion from the society. Disciplinary actions will be determined by the executive committee based on a fair review process.

10. Review and Amendments

- **Regular Review:** This Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.
 - **Amendments:** Any changes to the Code of Conduct must be approved by a majority of the society's executive committee and communicated to all members.
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This Code of Conduct serves as a guideline to ensure that all members and participants can engage in a positive, respectful, and constructive manner.

Ms. Mahrukh Rashid

Convener Debating Society

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