

## B. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### B.4. FREEDOM OF SPEECH FOR MEETINGS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES ON CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON PREMISES

Under the Education (No.2) Act 1986, Section 43, Council has the responsibility to "take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech **within the law** is secured for members, students, employees .... and for visiting speakers". Council also has a duty under Section 43 "to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the use of any premises of the establishment is not denied to any individual or body of persons on any ground connected with:

- (a) the beliefs or views of that individual or of any member of that body; or
- (b) the policy or objectives of that body."

In order to ensure compliance Council must issue and keep up to date a code of practice in respect of meetings and activities on City, University of London premises setting out the procedures to be followed and the conduct required.

Legislation concerning equalities, anti-terrorism, human rights and protection from harassment are also relevant to this Code, in addition to relevant provisions of criminal and civil law. The Public Order Act 1986 specifically defines a criminal offence of stirring up racial and religious hatred which bounds the exercise of free speech, as do the provisions of the Terrorism Acts 2000 and 2006 which prohibit inciting or glorifying acts of terrorism.

Council has delegated responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of this Code to the President. The Code will adhere to the following principles:

- (i) In so far as is reasonably practicable, no premises of the institution shall be denied to any individual or body of persons on grounds connected with:
  - a) The beliefs or views of that individual or of that body; or
  - b) The policy or objectives of that body.
- (ii) City, University of London will take account of any other legal obligations which may require it to have regard to what is said or expressed on its premises. For example where a speaker transgresses the bounds of lawful speech and expression or where assemblies of persons, even if directed to lawful purpose, cause serious risk of public disorder or breaches of the peace.

The President will report significant breaches of the Code or major amendments to the Code to the Council.