

The College supports freedom of speech and expression within the law and the right to peaceful and lawful protest. Members of the College are encouraged to express their viewpoints freely and openly. We regard freedom of speech – in its various manifestations – to be a cornerstone of a democratic society and a prerequisite for learning, discovery and progress. We strive to create and nurture an environment in which different positions can be robustly debated. The College expects all such interactions to be conducted peacefully, respectfully and always within the law, without intimidation or obstruction of other people, whether members of the College or otherwise.

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The College recognises its members' right to peaceful protest, and notes in this context the University's [Guidance on demonstrations and protests](#). When protesting, you must avoid:

- Causing harm or damage to people or property;
- Making people or groups feel vulnerable or threatened (regardless of whether this is in physical or emotional sense).

If, in taking part in a protest within College grounds or in their immediate vicinity, or on University of Cambridge property, you promote, justify, incite or commit violence, damage property, or affect the safety of others, you will face consequences through [College](#) and [University](#) disciplinary processes. You may also be subject to prosecution, if suspected of breaking the law.

Our expectations of Trinity student

If you are planning to undertake any protest activity on College grounds:

- Notify the College Porters with as much notices as possible, and no less than 72 hours before the planned protest, and provide the following details: time, date, approximate numbers, location;
- Follow any guidance issued by the Porters to ensure the safety and security of all participants, College members, visitors and property;
- Make sure all participants are aware of, and follow, any guidance issued by the Porters;
- Do not attach any signs, posters or banners to College property, or display them on, or out of, College windows;
- When the protest is over, ensure the protest location is in the same state as when you arrived.

So that you and the protest do not fall foul of College/University discipline regulations, or the UK law, please avoid:

- The use of abusive, bullying or threatening language in any communications related to the protest (including before, during and after), whether in physical (e.g., posters), electronic (e.g. email, social media), or any other type of communication;
- Disrupting teaching and learning activities, including exam revision, or any other College business;
- Damaging or occupying College property as part of the protest;
- Conducting yourself or the protest in a manner that would breach the law;
- Promoting or expressing support for illegal terrorist organisations.

If you come across a protest you are not a part of, do not prevent speakers from talking and people from attending. Refrain from any action that would prevent the event from taking place. If you are concerned that a protest/event is breaching College expectations regarding peaceful process, please contact the College Porters either in person, or via phone on 01223 338400.

Protest alternatives

Is a protest the best way of raising awareness or finding a solution to an issue? Could you engage with relevant College Officers directly, or via the Liaison Committee? Could TCSU or BA Society assist? If a direct approach is unsuccessful (or not suitable), would a petition be a suitable alternative? Is the issue one for the University of Cambridge, rather than the College? If so, please consider the various ways for submitting a complaint to the University: <https://www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/>.

Protesting away from the College / Radicalisation

If you take part in a protest away from the College, please make sure any such activity is lawful. Any breach of the law may result in police investigation. Engaging in activities that bring the College into disrepute may also result in College disciplinary action against any member involved.

Any extreme situation – whether a result of geopolitical or natural causes – may make individuals more susceptible to radicalisation. This process may manifest itself by the person(s) supporting terrorist groups or activities. If you are concerned about radicalisation within our community, or worried about your friend(s), please let us know so that we can provide help and support the individual(s) and our community.

Relevant documentation

For College discipline procedures, please visit the Student Hub: <https://students.trin.cam.ac.uk/policies/>

The University Rules of Behaviour are set out online: <https://www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/student-discipline>

University *Guidance on demonstrations and protests*: https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/files/guidance_on_demonstrations_and_protests_draft_v2.pdf