

Declaration of independence and interdependence of the universities.

Preamble: There are no greater constraints in force than those that the human spirit, who invented them all, exercises over itself in the form of thought. The most powerful thought is the most demanding. Truth and creation, beauty and justice, reason and irrationality, are only some of the names that man has given to this demand. Art and science, techniques and trades: all the disciplines required to make certain these requirements, are equally an expression of them. All power, political, religious, economic, or other, which refuses to submit to these requirements is doomed to wither away.

Convinced that this requirement and the conditions under which it is exercised should neither disappear nor be removed with the powers which profit from the requirement while pretending to serve it; convinced that the universities have, in this regard, a responsibility towards the people, present, past and future, we, who have participated to one extent or another in the exercise of these universal rights and demands of thought, in this work which, while not always carried out jointly, could only be accomplished through the form of gestures made in public, have undertaken to set out the points of intransigence to which this requirement constrains us.

First article: Independence of thought consists of the ability to carry out, under its proper determinations, the sequence of understanding which produces works and knowledge. In this way the exercise of this independence has only those bounds which assure the possibility to prove, attest, and evaluate the validity of its independence. These bounds can only be determined by a community of equals surrounding the independence of the universities.

Second article: All men and all women possess in all circumstances, an enduring right to verify the equality of their intelligence with all others.

Third article: Independence of thought is shared amongst all those engaged in research, teaching or study. It must be the same for all, regardless of their place in the university, of their social or national origins, of their denomination or ethnicity, of their age, or of their sexual orientation.

Fourth article: The university is made from the plurality of languages and cultures. Its mission is to contribute to their continual creativity.

Fifth article: The university favours and promotes the free movement of people and of thoughts.

Sixth article: The free circulation of thought and knowledge rests on a unconditional right of access to all methods and sources of knowledge. No censorship should restrain the sources mobilised for this free circulation.

Seventh article: Whosoever is engaged in, and contributing to, research, teaching or study must be able to carry out critical thought without being the object of censorship, repression or inquisition.

Eighth article: The university only exists outside those spaces controlled by the police or military. Its space is where those who constitute the university can meet freely.

Ninth article: The value of a thought bidden to the constraint of truth, rests on the sole demands that it owes to the protocols with which it was put to the test. Its evaluation within the university returns to those who bring this requirement to research, teaching or study. It is public and subject to contradiction.

Tenth article: The university is rich in topics and experiments of emancipation. As such, it is public.

Eleventh article: In universities, the politics of science are commissioned only by the production of works, and of tools for understanding. No constraint of return of investment may determine the course of this activity, nor the level of finance that it calls for. It belongs to public power to guarantee this autonomy.

Twelfth article: No person wishing to study may be constrained to renounce it for reasons of financial or practical organisation of the university. All the more, they may not be obliged to mortgage, by self-finance or indebtedness all or a part of their life, nor to accept harm to their dignity. They must, on the contrary, receive all necessary material support.

Thirteenth article: All people who work for the university belong, with all rights, to a community which accords to everyone, equality of rights and respect.

Fourteenth article: Amongst centres of teaching, research and creation, only those in which their disposition has the superior goal of rendering effective these principles, may call themselves universities.

Fifteenth: All societies and all states which contravene these principles, would be reputed to have no university.

Sixteenth article: All universities desiring the application of these principles possess a right to place themselves under the extended protection of other universities and of international organisations. All universities signing this declaration engage in the support of those that demand it on the basis of the principles set out.