

Resolution 28: Protecting the Right to Protest

Abstract: This resolution aims to protect the right to protest at Cornell and promote free expression on campus.

Sponsored by: Isaac D. Chasen '23, Shelby L. Williams '25, Duncan A. Cady '23, Danielle Smith '24, Talia Dinstein '25, Michael Serdula '24, Katie Lin '26, Thej Khanna '26, Lindsay Reisner '26, Ally Leighton '25

Reviewed by:

Type of Action: Legislation

Originally Presented: 03/16/2023

Whereas, freedom of speech and the right to protest is enshrined in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and like other great academic institutions, has been one of the core values of Cornell University since its founding;

Whereas, Cornell University was founded as an institution where any person could find instruction in any study, as well as find the opportunity to freely express their views and opinions, freely express themselves, and freely engage in political discussion and disagreement in a respectful and informed environment;

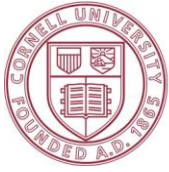
Whereas, while generations of Cornell students have lived and learned under our university motto and have proudly supported and endorsed these values, the university, like many other institutions, is now facing new challenges to the civil and free expression of personal views and opinions;

Whereas, the Cornell community has historically thrived while entertaining all viewpoints, respecting the views of others with whom we disagree, and celebrating what makes every one of us unique, as this is what makes our institution welcoming to any person and accommodating to any study;

Whereas, the right to protest and demonstrate has been a catalyst for change on campus, from past generations' fights for justice and representation, to modern day movements and mobilizations for progress;

Whereas, central to social progress is the ability of Cornellians to peacefully yet powerfully express their viewpoints in a diversity of ways, including large scale demonstrations and protests, as well as sitting in and speaking out around campus;

Whereas, the suppression of views and opinions, regardless of popularity, political preference, and personal identity, always violates our university's values, and should be condemned wherever and whenever it occurs;



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41 **Whereas**, it goes without saying, yet must always be emphasized, that discrimination and
42 violence based on race, religion, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or national
43 origin must always be condemned, and violate our values and Cornell's Code of Conduct;
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45 **Be It Therefore Resolved**, the Student Assembly completely and unequivocally supports free
46 expression, organization, speech, representation, and the right to protest within the
47 Cornell community;
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49 **Be It Therefore Resolved**, the Student Assembly completely and unequivocally supports
50 academic freedom and the freedom of expression in the classroom, at public events, and
51 in all public spaces of Cornell University;
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53 **Be It Therefore Resolved**, the administration, through words, actions, programs, and policies,
54 should pledge to be a leader in safeguarding free expression and the right to protest on
55 campus, and will work with the Student Assembly to provide space and protection for the
56 peaceful expression of all views and opinions.
57

58 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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60 Isaac D. Chasen '23
61 *Co-President of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*
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63 Shelby L. Williams '25
64 *Student Assembly Representative for the College of Arts and Sciences, Representative to the*
65 *University Assembly*
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67 Duncan A. Cady '23
68 *Chair of the University Assembly*
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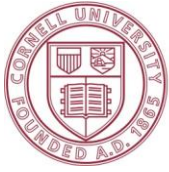
70 Danielle Smith '24
71 *Co-President of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*
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73 Talia Dinstein '25
74 *Co-President of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*
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76 Michael Serdula '24
77 *Treasurer of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*
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79 Katie Lin '26
80 *Secretary of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*
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82 Thej Khanna '26
83 *Recruitment and Membership Chair of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*



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85 Lindsay Reisner '26

86 *Communications Chair of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*

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88 Ally Leighton '25

89 *Events and Advocacy Chair of the American Civil Liberties Union at Cornell*