

Resolution 33: Protecting Freedom of Expression: Anti-Doxxing

Abstract: The threat of doxxing poses substantial safety concerns infringing upon students' abilities to freely express themselves, increasing their likelihood to be victims of targeted attacks and harassment. This resolution is intended to prompt the Cornell administration to adopt a more proactive role in safeguarding the privacy of its students and upholding their right to "Freedom of Expression."

Sponsored by: Marwa Bakri '24, Aissatou Barry '24, Imani Rezaka '24, Malak Abuhashim '24, Darren Kwan '24, Ebreez Elbashir '24, Alaa Farghli, Jahmal Wallen '24, Majd Aldaye '25, Claire Ting '25, Gracelynn Osei-Bosompem '25, Mach E Enweremadu '25.

Reviewed by: DEI Committee, 10/25/2023, 6-0-5

Type of Action: Resolution

Originally Presented: 10/26/2023

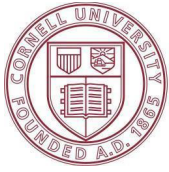
Current Status: New Business

Whereas, President Martha Pollack named the academic year 2023-2024 the year of "Freedom of Expression," emphasizing the need to "to challenge personal beliefs, to consider new ideas and unfamiliar perspectives, and to foster discussion around core freedoms for democracy and higher education."¹

Whereas, members of the university who take more radical or left-leaning perspectives on current events and political matters, including members of the Student Assembly, teaching faculty, and student organization leaders (such as Social Justice for Palestine), have historically faced consequences of the harmful practice of doxxing. This involves the public release of their names and personal information on media sources and websites.

Whereas, websites like Canary Mission do not fact check information and often take statements out of context, often completely misrepresenting what students and faculty actually say. These media sources use defaming language to ruin the public reputation of those that they post without verifying information. Media sources, without permission, post the names and identifying information of people within our Cornell community that take a certain position on global affairs, threaten their freedom of expression and consequently discussions around human rights.

¹<https://www.cornell.edu/expression/#:~:text=We%20encourage%20Cornellians%20everywhere%20to,for%20democracy%20and%20higher%20education.>



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29 **Whereas**, there is a substantial number of students and faculty listed on Canary Mission, in
30 which, the majority of students listed are members of historically marginalized communities:
31 Black, Brown, Muslim and Jewish students.

32 **Whereas**, the threat and fear of being posted on doxxing websites actively intimidates members
33 of the university and threatens their ability to share their views, hindering them from exercising
34 Freedom of Expression.

35 **Whereas**, social media pages posted on these sites are posted with malicious intent.

36 **Whereas**, members of Cornell University who take stances have received death threats to them
37 and their families as a result of doxxing.

38 **Whereas**, members' social media pages are put under national scrutiny, thereby increasing the
39 risk of their personal information being compromised. Once this information is compromised,
40 the risk of harassment substantially increases.

41 **Whereas**, the threat of doxxing poses significant security and safety concerns infringing upon
42 students' rights to freely express themselves. Being doxxed increases their likelihood to be
43 victims of targeted attacks and harassment.

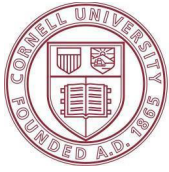
44 **Whereas**, the risk of being doxxed extends beyond safety, potentially impacting students' visa
45 statuses, program funding, and career opportunities. These impacts are life-altering, affecting
46 students even beyond their time at Cornell.

47 **Be it therefore resolved**, Cornell University administration takes a more active role in
48 preventing members of the Cornell community from being doxxed, and harassed for free speech,
49 and protecting those who have already been targeted.

50 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell University administration takes a proactive measure to deter
51 doxxing.

52 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell University uphold its core value of "A Community of
53 Belonging" defined by , "As a university founded to be a place where...any person can find
54 instruction..." we value diversity and inclusion, and we strive to be a welcoming, caring, and
55 equitable community where students, faculty, and staff with different backgrounds, perspectives,
56 abilities, and experiences can learn, innovate, and work in an environment of respect, and feel
57 empowered to engage in any community conversation."²

² <https://president.cornell.edu/initiatives/university-core-values/>



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58 **Be it further resolved**, administration condemns Canary Mission’s targeted attacks on the
59 reputations and wellbeing of Cornell community members and their threat to our right to
60 Freedom of Expression.

61 **Be it further resolved**, that the Cornell University’s Board of Trustees consider *doxxing and*
62 *digital harassment* when updating the official Student Code of Conduct.

63 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell offers further support to students and faculty members whose
64 reputations have been publicly harmed and defamed. Such support should include health,
65 academic, and legal resources put forward to help students experiencing mental hardships as a
66 result of such defamation.

67 **Be it finally resolved**, that a statement be put out reaffirming the “Freedom of Expression”
68 theme year, supporting students’ ability to express opinions, however unpopular, without facing
69 harassment or threats to their wellbeing. Otherwise, President Martha Pollack should put out a
70 clarifying statement on the limitations of “Freedom of Expression” academic freedom and how
71 far they apply. Ultimately, this university continues to be a safe environment focused on
72 dissemination of historical ideas and formation of opinions.

73

74 **Respectfully Submitted,**

75 Aissatou Barry ‘24

76 *VP of DEI, Student Assembly*

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78 Marwa Bakri ‘24

79 *First-Generation Student Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

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81 Claire Ting ‘25

82 *Executive Vice President, Student Assembly*

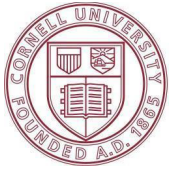
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84 Imani Rezaka ‘24

85 *College of Arts and Sciences Representative (Interim), Student Assembly*

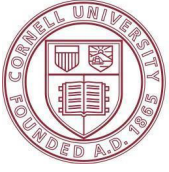
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87 Malak Abuhashim ‘24



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- 88 *President, Social Justice for Palestine*
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- 90 Darren Kwan '24
- 91 *President, Muslim Educational and Cultural Association*
- 92
- 93 Ebreez Elbashir '24
- 94 *President, Pan African Muslim Student Association*
- 95
- 96 Alaa Farghli
- 97 *President, Arab Grad Students Association*
- 98
- 99 Jahmal Wallen '24
- 100 *Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly, Student Assembly*
- 101
- 102 Majd Aldaye '25
- 103 *President, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Music Ensemble*
- 104
- 105 Mach E Enweremadu '25
- 106 *Co- President, Black Students United*
- 107
- 108 Gracelynn Osei-Bosompem '25
- 109 *Co- President, Black Students United*
- 110
- 111 Yanisa Vararaksapong '26
- 112 *Cornell Progressives Outreach Chair*
- 113
- 114 Sonali Nicola '25



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115 *Cornell Progressives Community Action Chair*