

1. Defending Personal and Academic Freedom Against the Far Right

SERCIA deplores the fact that the Far Right is gaining ground in France and in the world, undermining the spirit of enlightenment that energizes academic endeavor. Academic freedom relies on critical and self-critical investigation into the present and the past. Its politics advocates for access to historical archives to unearth truths about the torturing of colonized or enslaved peoples, the Holocaust and other genocides, and the deconstruction of nostalgia politics for the glory days of white patriarchy. It can call on intersectional tools of analysis and promotes a critical stance all too often discredited as "woke" by the media.

Academic freedom has already been losing ground, threatened by the upholders of neoliberalism and their view of university knowledge as a new market to conquer, accusing scholars of acting as "islamo-gauchistes" when they promote inclusive and diversity discourses. The success of the Far Right at the EU and French elections should not be minimized: the Far Right would undoubtedly crush any remaining academic freedom by imposing its political agenda on research and enforcing discrimination within the workplace. The notions of academic freedom and intellectual diversity have already been used to redefine academic curricula and silence critical discourses such as CRT in some universities (<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/2024/02/19/senate-bill-202-what-exactly-is-intellectual-diversity/>).

SERCIA values democracy and diversity and condemns all forms of authoritarianism as well as all antisemitic, Islamophobic, homophobic, transphobic, racist and sexist discourses and practices. It condemns the physical, verbal, moral, epistemic and systemic violence such discourses engender. Fighting against authoritarian ideologies cannot be limited to casting one's ballot at the elections; it is a day to day struggle. As an academic society devoted to the study of film and TV series, SERCIA is aware of the power of media propaganda and vows to pursue the fight against discrimination and intolerance by emphasizing diversity and critical dialogue in both research and teaching. It vows to defend students and colleagues who might be the target of violence because of their identities and/or because their work implies social and political criticism.

<https://theconversation.com/la-liberte-academique-aux-prises-avec-de-nouvelles-menaces-171682>

The first statement is adopted by the general assembly with the following votes:

- 1 abstention
- 40 YES

2. For a durable peace in Israel and Palestine

SERCIA mourns the loss of human lives in Israel and Palestine and wishes to express its sympathy to the victims' families and friends. It condemns both the terrorist acts committed by Hamas and the war crimes committed by the Israeli army [<https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/statement-icc-prosecutor-karim-aa-khan-kc-applications-arrest-warrants-situation-state>]. It is alarmed by the obstacles that are put in the way of humanitarian associations bringing aid to the Palestinian people and, more generally, by the depletion of food and medical supplies that are causing famine, malnutrition and disease in the Gaza strip. It also deplores the systematic destruction of hospitals, schools and universities in the Gaza strip, leading to a form of scholasticide (<https://scholarsagainstar.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Scholasticide-Definition.pdf>).

SERCIA recognizes Israel's sovereign right to defend itself and supports the recognition of an equally sovereign Palestinian state. It calls for an immediate ceasefire, for the return of the Israeli hostages to their families, and for the end of the occupation of the territories in East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza, an occupation which the International Court of Justice ruled illegal (https://www.democracynow.org/2024/7/22/diana_buttu_icj_israeli_occupation_palestine). All these are necessary conditions to the opening of peace talks that must include the foundation of a Palestinian state. SERCIA also believes that individuals should not be held responsible for the actions of their state or institutions and that the spirit of academic dialogue must be safeguarded if teachers and researchers are to actively contribute to the peace effort.

The second statement is adopted by the general assembly with the following votes:

- 4 abstentions
- 36 YES