

PROPOSED MOTION FOR IAG GENERAL MEETING ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND FREEDOM IN RESPONSE TO THE RISING TIDE OF VIOLENCE, THREAT AND INTIMIDATION

This meeting of members of the Institute of Australian Geographers:

1) acknowledges that

- (a) rigorous scholarship and academic freedom are foundational to the important role of higher education, universities and research in protecting human rights and fostering just and sustainable relationships in the coupled human and natural systems that support life on earth,
- (b) scholars and academics face increasing threat not only for doing rigorous scholarship that displeases powerful vested interests and ideologues, but also for defending academic integrity and procedures,
- (c) acts of hate, harassment, abuse, and threats of violence and intimidation affecting scholars and academics occur on university campuses, in scholarly publications and online in ways that undermine academic freedom, academic integrity and the independence of academic institutions and disciplines,
- (d) targeted harassment of academics that violates academic freedom and undermines academic integrity in publishing, scholarship and public debate particularly threatens the contribution of subaltern scholars who are not only silenced and suppressed, but increasingly face threats to life, livelihood, and wellbeing, and
- (e) free speech has become the rallying cry for groups, both inside and outside of academia, who mobilize significant resources and threat to counter proper academic critique for ideological purpose;

2) And therefore, asks the Council of the Institute of Australian Geographers to:

- (a) adopt a resolution not to be silent on the issue of attacks on critical scholarship, academic freedom and the integrity of academic procedures in higher education, research and publishing,
- (b) recognise, commend and protect the commitment to academic integrity and high scholarly standards in *Geographical Research* as the official scholarly publication of the Institute,
- (c) encourage and support senior geographers to speak strongly in the public sphere against acts of hate, harassment, abuse, and threats of violence and intimidation affecting scholars and academics and against targeted harassment of academics that violates academic freedom and undermines academic integrity in publishing, scholarship and public debate, and
- (d) commit to standing against violence directed at scholars and speaking out against attempts to censor critical scholarship that addresses systemic inequities and power imbalances in education and society;

3) And urges members of the Institute of Australian Geographers to:

- (a) speak strongly in the public sphere against acts of hate, harassment, abuse, and threats of violence and intimidation affecting scholars and academics and against targeted harassment of academics that violates academic freedom and undermines academic integrity in publishing, scholarship and public debate, and
- (b) stand against violence directed at scholars, and
- (c) speak out against attempts to censor critical scholarship that addresses systemic inequities and power imbalances in education and society.

PROPOSER: PROFESSOR RICHARD HOWITT (Macquarie University)

SECONDER(S):