



May 6, 2024

Statement on Free Speech on College Campuses

Since Fall 2023, the American Sociological Association (ASA) has issued two statements re-emphasizing our unwavering support for and commitment to academic freedom and freedom of speech. Yet regrettably, over the last six months, assaults on this basic principle have not only continued but worsened. In recent weeks, peaceful protests in which students, staff, and faculty at colleges and universities assembled to express free speech have in some cases been summarily shut down, and nonviolent protestors have faced arrests, at times through excessive force, and other sanctions. The ASA decries the suppression of protesters' rights to free expression. We acknowledge that campuses include students, faculty, and staff with diverse, and even conflicting perspectives, and that they strive to maintain reasonable policies and respect for all community members. Yet, we stand against leaders and institutions willing to stifle peaceful protests with violence. We reiterate that free speech and inquiry is a bedrock academic principle, and we unequivocally support the right to free expression.