

AIMEncyclopaedias

COMMENTS AND MODERATION CHARTER

English translation for information. The French text remains the authoritative version.

Freedom of Expression Compatible with the Requirement of Respect

The comment sections of the MEDs are intended to encourage discussion, the exchange and confrontation of ideas, the sharing of experiences and the collective development of reflection. They are not, however, spaces intended to indiscriminately accommodate discourse dominated by bitterness, hatred, invective or systematic hostility towards a category of people.

The administrator and those responsible for moderation recognise that some people may face painful or deeply deteriorated situations in their personal lives and in relations between men and women. Experiences of loneliness, rejection, separation, conflict or injustice may cause real suffering, anger or a feeling of being misunderstood. Such suffering may be heard and expressed in the site's discussion spaces, provided that its expression remains compatible with the principles of respect and non-violence governing the Association.

Recognition of such suffering cannot, however, justify hatred, contempt or generalised hostility towards women or men. Statements involving misogyny, gynophobia or misandry, in particular, do not in themselves constitute an acceptable contribution when they take the form of denigration, hatred or generalised hostility towards people on the grounds of their sex.

Committed but Reasoned Contributions

The Association does not claim absolute axiological neutrality in discussions. Contributors are free to defend positions, values and interpretations, including when they are critical, controversial or strongly asserted.

This freedom nevertheless entails a requirement of intellectual responsibility. Positions expressed must be formulated intelligibly, supported by arguments and proportionate to the subject under discussion. Disagreement, criticism and controversy are legitimate; invective, intimidation and dehumanisation are not arguments.

Humour also has a place in the comments, including when the subjects discussed are serious or sensitive. A joke, a witty remark or a form of irony may help make exchanges livelier and more human and are not, in themselves, incompatible with the intellectual purpose of the site. Everyone nevertheless remains responsible for the humour they use, the manner in which they express themselves and the statements they publish. Humour is not the primary purpose of the comments and cannot be invoked to justify hatred, threats, harassment, defamation or any other conduct contrary to the site's rules.

Contributors are invited, as far as possible, to distinguish between established facts, interpretations, hypotheses, personal testimony and opinions. This distinction contributes to the quality of debate and enables readers to identify what is based on documented knowledge and what is a matter of personal assessment.

Caution, Sources and Responsibility

Caution in statements: everyone is invited to consider the scope of their remarks and to avoid excessive generalisations or presenting uncertain assertions as certain.

No vulgarity or invective: language may be firm, critical or passionate, but it must remain compatible with respect for individuals and with the intellectual purpose of the site.

Reasoned argument: positions defended should, as far as possible, be accompanied by arguments allowing them to be examined and discussed.

References and sources: when a contribution advances factual information, particularly where it may be contested or concerns a sensitive subject, citing a reliable source is strongly recommended. When an important allegation cannot reasonably be substantiated, it is preferable not to present it as fact.

Respect for individuals: no contribution may contain defamation, insults or, more generally, content that may constitute a criminal offence or engage the liability of its author or of the Association.

Individual responsibility: each contributor remains responsible for the statements they publish and the information they make available to the public.

The Role of Moderation

Moderation is not intended to impose uniformity of thought or eliminate minority or controversial opinions. Its purpose is to preserve the conditions necessary for genuinely adversarial debate: the possibility of disagreement, freedom of criticism, quality of argument, respect for individuals and the absence of violence.

Moderators may therefore intervene when a contribution breaches this Charter, the Statutes, the Internal Regulations or the Association's fundamental principles. Depending on the nature and seriousness of the breach, a contribution may be flagged, edited or removed, and its author may be subject to the measures provided for by the operating rules of the site and the Association.

Moderation should, as far as possible, distinguish the strength of an opinion from the manner in which it is expressed. A radical, unpopular or strongly critical opinion should not be excluded simply because it is disturbing. Its expression cannot, however, serve to justify hatred, threats, defamation, harassment or any other form of violence.

The objective is therefore less to make exchanges 'neutral' than to enable people with differing opinions to express themselves, respond to one another and contradict one another within an intellectually rigorous and respectful framework.