



Stellenbosch University Student Leadership Response on Language at SU

This statement is issued on behalf of the Stellenbosch University Student Representative Council (“SRC”) alongside Prim Committee (“PC”) members and serves as a response to the current contention around language at SU.

Stellenbosch University’s (“SU”) Transformation Plan, which advances the implementation of Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework 2019-2024, outlines social inclusion interventions. Amongst other things, they enable a welcoming institutional culture, greater access, and facilities that validate diverse identities and needs. In matters of transformation, the SRC, PC, and other leaders at SU are led by documents such as our [Transformation Policies](#) and we align our interactions and the support of our students accordingly. We understand that multilingualism is used at SU as a method of promoting social inclusion by allowing students to communicate in the language that they are most comfortable with. However, due to the diverse demographics of our communities, we simultaneously promote English in formal settings, as it is the most accessible language.

Consequently, student communities foster an inclusive and welcoming culture through facilitating official Community activities in English. This is consistent with the [SU Language Policy of 2016](#) which affirms that “in residences and other living environments, language is used in such a way that, where reasonably practicable, no stakeholder is excluded from participating in formal activities”. This, however, does not prohibit the usage of other languages in private settings. Therefore, the use of other languages in places such as gardens of residences or the benches on campus is encouraged to promote a culture of multilingualism.

As such, the issues raised, particularly those relating to home language usage in SU residences, are concerning. While some recollections of the events may vary, they are taken very seriously and will be addressed through the internal processes of the university.

However, the unwarranted harm caused through verbal and written harassment, has significant negative effects on the mental wellbeing of our students. Therefore, we strongly condemn the abrasive vilification of student leaders by members of the public. We, as students of Stellenbosch University, abide by the values of our institution: Equity, Respect, Accountability, Excellence, and Compassion. In light of this, we offer our support and encouragement to our fellow leaders who continue to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Stellenbosch University Student Leaders



Universiteit Stellenbosch Studenteleiers Reaksie Tot Taal By US

Hierdie verklaring word namens die Studenteraad van Stellenbosch Universiteit ("SR") en die Prim Kommittee ("PK") uitgereik in terme van die huidige taalkwessie by die Universiteit Stellenbosch ("US").

US se Transformasie Plan, wat die implementasie van Visie 2040 en die Strategiese Raamwerk 2019-2024 bevorder, gee 'n uiteensetting van verskeie sosiale inklusiwiteitsingrypinge uiteen. Dit sluit, onder andere, 'n verwelkomende institusionele kultuur, toenemende toegang tot hulpbronne en fasiliteite wat diverse behoeftes en identiteite akkommodeer en vier. In terme van transformasie, word die SR, PK en ander leiers by US gelei deur dokumente soos die Transformasie Beliede en ons interaksies met en ondersteuning aan studente word daarby aangepas. Ons verstaan dat meertalghied by US gebruik word as a manier om sosiale inklusiwiteit te bevorder aangesien studente aangemoedig word om te kommunikeer in die taal waarmee hul die gemaklikste is. Die uiteenlopende demografie van ons gemeenskappe, noodsaak egter die gebruik van Engels in formele omstandighede aangesien dit die mees toeganklike taal vir die meerderheid studente is.

Gevolgtreklik poog studentegemeenskappe om 'n inklusiewe en verwelkomende kultuur te skep deur amptelike aktiwiteite in Engels te fasiliteer. Hierdie stem ooreen met die US Taal Beleid van 2016 wat bevestig dat "In koshuise en ander leefomgewings word taal op so 'n wyse gebruik dat, waar dit redelikerwys uitvoerbaar is, geen belanghebbende uitgesluit word van deelname aan enige formele aktiwiteite in hierdie omgewings nie." Hierdie verbied egter nie die gebruik van ander tale in privaat omstandighede nie. Daarom word die gebruik van taal op 'n wyse wat 'n kultuur van meertalghied bevestig, aangemoedig in plekke soos koshuis tuine en bankies op kampus

Dit is waarom die kwessies wat geopper is, veral dié wat verband hou met die gebruik van moedertaal in US-koshuise, kommerwekkend is. Terwyl sommige se ervarings mag verskil, word dit steeds baie ernstig opgeneem en sal dit deur die universiteit se interne prosesse aangespreek word.

Die ongeregverdigde skade wat deur mondelinge en skriftelike teistering aangerig word, het egter beduidende negatiewe effekte op die geestelike welstand van ons studente. Daarom kritiseer ons ten sterkste die vernedering en veroordeling van studenteleiers deur lede van die publiek. Ons, as studente van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, streef na die waardes van ons instelling naamlik: Billikheid, Respek, Verantwoordbaarheid, Uitnemendheid en Deernis. Daarom bied ons, ons ondersteuning en aanmoediging aan ons medeleiers wie steeds aanhou om 'n verwelkomende en inklusiewe omgewing te bevorder.

Universiteit Stellenbosch Studente Leiers



Impendulo Yeenkokheli Zabafundi Beyunivesithi iStellenbosch Kumba Onxulumene Neelwimi Kule Yunivesithi

Le ngxelo ikhutshwa ngokunxulumene neQumrhu labaMeli babaFundi beYunivesithi iStellenbosch (SRC) inxamnye neQumrhu labaMeli babaFundi kwiziNdlu zokuHlala zabo - iPrim Komiti ("PC") kwaye le ngxelo isetyenziswa njengendulo kwiimbambano ezijikeleze umba wolwimi kwiYunivesithi iStellenbosch.

IsiCwangciso seNguqu sakwiYunivesithi iStellenbosch ("SU") exhasa ukuphunyezwa koMbono ka-2040 ngokunjalo noBume boYilo luka-2019 – 2024 sigqabaza ngolamlo loquko kubulungisa ngokwentlalo. Phakathi kwezinye izinto, yenza kubekho inkqubo yeziko eyamkelayo, ufikeleleko olungamandla, iinkonzo ezingqinelana nobuni nezidingo ezahlukeneyo. Kwimiba yenguqu, iSRC, iPC, nezinye iinkokheli eSU zikhokelwa ngamaxwebhu afana neNkqubo yeNguqu yethu size klanjalo silungelelanise unxibelelwano nenkxaso yabafundi bethu ngokufanelekileyo. Siyaqonda ukuba ulwimi-ninzi luyasetyenziswa eSU njengendlela yokukhuthaza uquko lobulungisa ngokwentlalo ngokuvumela abafundi banxibelelane ngolwimi abaziva bekhululeke kulo. Nangona kunjalo, ngenxa yokohlukana kwesakhiwo soluntu lwethu sikhuthaza ukusetyenziswa kwesiNgesi ngaxesha linye kwiimeko ezisesikweni kuba lolona lwimi lufikelelekayo.

Ngako oko, abafundi bakhuthaza inkqubo equka bonke neyamkelayo ngokulungelelanisa inkqubo zoluntu lweyunivesithi ezisesikweni ngesiNgesi. Oku kuyangqinelana noMgaqo-Nkqubo weelwimi waseSU owenza isiqiniseko sokuba, "kwiindawo zokuhlala zabafundi nakwezinye iindawo ezingqongileyo ekuhlalwa kuzo, ulwimi lusetyenziswa ngohlobo lokuba apho kufanelekileyo akukho nabani na oyinxalenye yeyunivesithi okhutshelwa bucala ekuthabatheni inxaxheba kwiinkqubo ezisesikweni". Nangona kunjalo, oku akukuvaleli ukusetyenziswa kwezinye iilwimi kwimimandla ebucala. Ngoko ke, ukusetyenziswa kwezinye iilwimi kwiindawo ezifana neegadi, kwiindawo zokuhlala zabafundi okanye kwiibhanki zokuhlala ezikhoyo kwikhampasi kuyakhuthazwa ukukhulisa inkqubo yokusetyenziswa koolwimi-ninzi.

Ngoko ke, le miba ibekiweyo, ingakumbi leyo ibhekisele kusetyenziso lolwimi lwasekhaya kwizindlu zabafundi zokuhlala eSU kuyaxhalabisa. Nangona ezinye iinkumbulo zisohluka, ziqatshelwe ngeliso elibukhali kwaye ziya kuchotshelwa kwiinkqubo zaphakathi kwiyunivesithi.

Noxa kunjalo, umonakalo ongaphandle kwesizathu owenziwa ngentshutshiso yomlomo okanye ebhaliweyo uneziphumo ezibi kubume bengqondo yabafundi bethu. Ngoko ke, siyasigxeka ngoku ngamandla isenzo songcoliso ngokurhabaxa seenkokheli zabafundi ngamalungu kawonke-wonke. Thina njengabafundi bakwiYunivesithi iStellenbosch silandela iinqobo zeziko lethu ezizezi: Ukulingana, Intlonipho, Imfanelo, Ukulunga kanye, Uvelwano. Ngokwale miba sinikezela ngenkxaso yethu nenkuthazo kwiinkokheli ezi ngo gxa bethu abaqhubeka bekhuthaza ubume bemeko yendawo eyamkelayo nequkayo.

liNkokheli zabaFundi beYunivesithi iStellenbosch



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