



NEIGHBORS OF WEST LOOP

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Scope

These guidelines cover all aspects of community interaction and moderation on the NoWL website and social media channels.

Goal

The NoWL website and social media channels provide a growing number of opportunities for members of the community who wish to discuss, debate and engage on content we publish, positions we take and various community issues more generally. Our aim is to ensure that the NoWL website and social media channels are inclusive and safe, and that our platforms are a place where you will find respectful and productive discussions.

Community Standards

There are 8 guidelines which we expect all participants engaging on the NoWL platforms to abide by, all of which directly inform our approach to community moderation (detailed below).

- (1) ***Be Respectful.*** We welcome debate and dissent, but personal attacks, persistent trolling, linking and tagging and abuse in any form will not be tolerated. The key to maintaining our website and social media channels as an inviting and productive space is to focus on informed and constructive discussion of topics.
- (2) ***No Misrepresentations.*** We acknowledge criticism of content we publish and positions we take, but will not allow misrepresentation of NoWL or our officers, directors or members to be published on our website or social media channels. For the sake of robust debate, we will distinguish between constructive, focused exchanges and smear tactics.
- (3) ***No Threats.*** We understand that people often feel strongly about the issues being debated, but we will consider removing any content that others might find extremely offensive or threatening. Please respect other people's views and beliefs and consider your impact on others when making your contribution. We don't want to stop people discussing topics they are enthusiastic about, but we do ask community members to find ways of sharing their views that do not feel divisive, threatening or toxic to others.
- (4) ***No Hate Speech.*** We will not tolerate racism, sexism, homophobia or other forms of hate-speech, or contributions that could be interpreted as such. We recognize the difference between criticizing a particular point of view and attacking people on the basis of their race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age.

- (5) ***Respect Intellectual Property and the Law.*** We will remove any content that may put us in legal jeopardy, such as potentially libelous or defamatory postings, or material posted in potential breach of copyright.
- (6) ***Don't Spam or Advertise.*** We will remove any posts that are spam-like or commercial advertisements. This may also apply to people or organizations who frequently post propaganda or external links without adding substantively to the quality of the specific discussion on our website and social media channels.
- (7) ***Keep it Relevant.*** We know that some conversations can be wide-ranging, but if you post something which is unrelated to the original topic (“off-topic”) then it may be removed, in order to keep the post on track. This also applies to queries or comments about moderation, which should not be posted as comments.
- (8) ***You Are Part of a Community.*** The platforms are ours, but the conversation belongs to everybody. We want this to be a welcoming space for respectful, productive discussion, and we expect participants to help us achieve this by notifying us of potential problems and helping each other to keep conversations inviting and appropriate. If you spot something problematic in community interaction areas, please report it to us. When we all take responsibility for maintaining an appropriate and constructive environment, the debate itself is improved and everyone benefits.

Moderation

Participants who seriously, persistently or wilfully ignore the community standards, participation guidelines or terms and conditions will have their posting privileges for the NoWL website and social media channels, and potentially membership in NoWL, withdrawn and/or blocked. This is not an action that we take lightly or arbitrarily. However, we are aiming to create and maintain an experience consistent with the values of NoWL and we reserve the right to make decisions which we feel support those values. Please be aware that we may contact you by email or direct message regarding your participation relative to these community standards.

We will, when necessary, remove postings or comments. Even if only part of a posting or comment is perceived as breaching the community guidelines, the whole thread may be removed. Also, when a comment or post is removed for any of the reasons above, it is sometimes necessary to delete subsequent messages which refer to explicitly or quote from the original (removed) comment.

The views expressed in community areas of the NoWL website and social media channels do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of NoWL, or our directors, officers or members.

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