



Equality and Diversity Policy

Dagenham U3A is committed to providing, life-enhancing opportunities where retired and semiretired people come together and learn together, not for qualifications but for its own reward: the sheer joy of discovery! Members share their skills and life experiences: the learners teach and the teachers learn, and there is no distinction between them. Dagenham U3A recognizes that some people are particularly likely to experience discrimination and harassment and are committed to making sure our group is inclusive and welcoming as possible.

“Dagenham U3A is committed to treating all people equally and with respect irrespective of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. We aim to design our activities, services and decision making processes specifically to encourage and support participation from people who face disadvantage in society”.

Aims of Policy

Dagenham U3A considers that no member should suffer disadvantage, or receive less favourable treatment on the basis of:

- ethnic origin, nationality (or statelessness) or race
- disability
- religion or belief (including the absence of belief)
- marital or civil partnership status
- sexual orientation
- pregnancy
- gender
- reassignment class or socio-economic status
- political belief

Practical Approaches to Inclusion

Dagenham U3A will make sure all new members are aware of our Equalities policy and Dagenham U3A Code of Conduct. Dagenham U3A will take reasonable measures and practical approaches to ensure a wide range of people take part in our activities and meetings. This may include:

- Consideration of the time of day of meetings
- Consideration of venues for meetings including accessible to wheelchair users and access to PA system and a hearing loop
- Publicity – making it easy to read, available to people who don't have access to the internet and range of images used that reflect the local community
- Tasks and Roles – to make sure a range of people get their voices heard. For example encouraging more women to take on roles such as chairing Meetings

Code of Conduct

Dagenham U3A has a Code of Conduct. Sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic or otherwise offensive and inflammatory remarks and behaviour are not acceptable. These constitute harassment and have no place in Dagenham U3A.

If any member of Dagenham U3A feels they have been discriminated against by the Dagenham U3A or harassed at any Dagenham U3A event they should raise this with the committee. The committee will investigate the complaint, listening to all members involved. (If the complaint is against a committee member, that member will not be part of conducting the investigation).

If the complaint is against a particular individual, this person will have the opportunity to express their point of view, accompanied by a friend. The person making the complaint will also have this opportunity.

If the complaint is against Dagenham U3A as a whole, the Committee must work to ensure that such discrimination is not repeated in the future and must inform the members of how they propose to do this.

Any decision to exclude a person from the organisation due to discriminatory or harassing behaviour will be made with the reference to Dagenham U3A's constitution/rules. The Association will support people who feel they have been harassed or discriminated against and will not victimise or treat them less well because they have raised this.

Dagenham U3A

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