

International Geographical Union--Union Géographique Internationale

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International Geographical Union Statement in Support of the Comité National Français de Géographie (CNFG) and the Geography Section of the Conseil National des Universités (CNU)

The International Geographical Union (IGU), as a full Union member of the International Science Council (ISC), subscribes to the principles of academic freedom and responsibility as enshrined in ISC Statute 7, viz. *the free and responsible practice of science is fundamental to scientific advancement and human and environmental well-being. Such practice, in all its aspects, requires freedom of movement, association, expression and communication for scientists, as well as equitable access to data, information, and other resources for research* (<https://council.science/what-we-do/freedoms-and-responsibilities-of-scientists>).

Accordingly, the IGU is distressed to learn of threats to academic freedom in France that concern especially the social sciences and the humanities at universities in that country. Scholars working in the fields of gender studies, critical race theory and postcolonial studies, including Geographers, have been subject to personal attacks and threats that are totally incompatible with the principles of academic freedom.

The International Geographical Union therefore affirms commitment to the principles of academic freedom and endorses the position adopted by, *inter alia*, the Comité National Français de Géographie (CNFG) and the Geography Section of the Conseil National des Universités (CNU) in highlighting the imperative of independence, transparency and quality of higher education and research that is being threatened by such attacks.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the International Geographical Union

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