

BUNS Community Guidelines

Trigger warnings:

Self-harm: Page 8

Eating disorders: Page 8

Child Abuse: Page 9

Contents:

- **Trigger warnings and contents (Page 1)**
- **Introduction (Page 2-3)**
- **Treat others with respect (Page 4)**
- **Appropriate Content (Pages 5-6)**
- **Misinformation and Academic Integrity (Page 6)**
- **Spam and Petitions (Page 7)**
- **Sensitive Content (Pages 8-9)**
- **Moderation (Page 10)**

If you have any questions or queries about these Community Guidelines, please contact a President or Vice President of the society, or email the main BUNS email address at bristolunindsoc@outlook.com.

Introduction

By being a member of Bristol University Neurodiversity Society (BUNS), you agree to follow our community guidelines. We encourage open discussions, however, to enable all our users to enjoy this group you must follow our community guidelines which are set out to ensure safety, diversity, inclusion, and authenticity of our community.

We remind our members that the [University of Bristol Acceptable Behaviour Policy](https://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/student-rules-regs/) and the [Bristol SU Member Code of Conduct](https://www.bristolsu.org.uk/resources/bristol-su-member-code-of-conduct) applies to all members (<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/student-rules-regs/> & <https://www.bristolsu.org.uk/resources/bristol-su-member-code-of-conduct>)

Our community guidelines define a set of norms and common expectations for this group which apply to everyone in it; they provide guidance on conduct that is and isn't acceptable to ensure our community is a welcoming space for everyone. We proactively enforce these guidelines and rules however we also encourage users to report any behaviour they believe break our community guidelines and rules by contacting one of the Co-Presidents or the Vice President, as can be found on our Students Union (SU) page.

In addition to behaviour at all BUNS sessions, our community guidelines and rules also apply to messages in our WhatsApp Community Group Chats as well as content included in profile pictures and signatures.

We may remove any messages within written communications (e.g. WhatsApp) that break these rules and take a note of users accordingly, and discussions will be had with members of the community who display, or are affected by, concerning behaviour. This may be escalated to the SU in certain circumstances. Please be respectful when using this group to speak to anyone. Any form of abusive language or rudeness will not be tolerated.

If a member is involved in severe or repeated behaviour that breaks our community guidelines we will escalate the situation to the Student Union. If this unacceptable behaviour is continuing to be performed in our WhatsApp Community, after a warning, we will temporarily suspend the individual from it while we escalate the situation to the SU. If you would like to discuss this further, please email bristolunindsoc@outlook.com. If necessary, we will report members that are seen to be breaking the law to the relevant legal authorities.

If you receive private messages as an outcome of interactions in sessions or WhatsApp chat and these break our community guidelines and rules, we encourage users to report these, preferably with screenshots, and we will investigate the report.

We will continue to update our community guidelines and rules from time to time to evolve alongside new behaviours and risks, and as part of our commitment to keeping this group a safe space for our members. It is the responsibility of the society member to be aware of current guidelines and rules.

Treat other users with respect

BUNS aims to be a welcoming and inclusive community for our users. We do not tolerate individuals being shamed, bullied, harassed or discriminated against. BUNS will not allow content that attacks, denigrates, intimidates, dehumanises, incites or threatens hatred, violence, prejudicial or discriminatory action against individuals or groups because of their actual or perceived race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, caste, gender, religious affiliation, or disability status. Do not use ableist, racial, religious, or other slurs that incite or promote hatred, or provide or share any other content intended to create division amongst the community. Abusive content or behaviour intended to cause psychological distress will be removed from the chat and if necessary, users will be temporarily suspended while we escalate the situation to the SU and may be reported to the relevant authorities.

- **Be friendly to other users and be mindful of how comments may be perceived when read in different tones.**
- **Don't insult people, don't patronise or belittle them and don't make personal attacks.**
- **We don't allow bullying or harassment. This includes abusive language, revealing others' personal or sensitive information or inciting or engaging others to do any of the same.**
- **We may remove expressions of abuse, including threats or degrading statements intended to mock, humiliate, embarrass, intimidate, or hurt an individual.**
- **Do not express discriminatory or otherwise offensive views. There is no place for ableism, racism, religious hatred, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and hate for any marginalised groups here.**
- **When linking to other webpages, be mindful and do not incite discrimination or hateful behaviour which could lead to attacks on marginalised groups and divisions within the community.**
- **BUNS will not condone accounts that are used to incite wilful harm or intimidation, such as cyberstalking or trolling.**

These members may be temporarily suspended from our WhatsApp while we escalate the situation to the SU and if necessary, reported to the relevant legal authorities. With particular reference to WhatsApp chat, if you suspect someone of being a troll, please do not reply to them in any way or accuse them, just report them and we will look into this. Outcomes of your report will not be able to be discussed in detail with you.

Appropriate Content

- **Keep debates constructive and healthy** - We have many members in our society with a range of backgrounds and experiences. Please be respectful of this and recognise that not everyone will share the same views. BUNS is not the place for political or inflammatory discussions, and we ask that members respect the views and experiences of others. If discussion becomes uncomfortable, remove yourself and report it to a member of committee rather than engaging in an argument.
- **Do not provide or link to material that could incite discrimination or hateful behaviour towards marginalised groups.**
- **Please also avoid posting messages in languages other than English unless you also provide a translation.**
- **Do not post violent content** - BUNS does not allow content that is gratuitously shocking, graphic, sadistic, or gruesome or that promotes, normalises, or glorifies extreme violence or suffering on our site. When there is a threat to public safety, we will suspend the individual while we consult the SU and, if necessary, we will report it to relevant legal authorities.
- **Do not post about or link to any sexually explicit content on this group, this includes sexually explicit images or text** - It's fine to discuss sex - but please remember this isn't the place for sex chat or tips and this content will be removed. If necessary, content that breaks the law will be reported to the relevant authorities.
- **You should not write anything which could prejudice pending or on-going court proceedings of which you are aware** - For example, if you have any personal knowledge about someone who has been arrested or charged or is being prosecuted for an offence, you must not mention it. If you do, you could be in contempt of court, which is an extremely serious matter.
- **Breach of Privacy** - To ensure the safety of all users, don't post any personal email addresses, social media handles or phone numbers on the group chat.

- **Do not post anything that advocates illegal activity** - BUNS does not condone illegal activity of any sort. We are a UK- based group, so the laws of England and Wales are our guideline for determining illegality, although laws from other countries will be considered if appropriate to the context of the relevant post. Posts found breaking the law will be reported to the relevant legal authorities.

Misinformation and Academic Integrity

Misinformation is defined as content that is inaccurate or false. Whilst we encourage our members to engage in friendly and respectful conversations at sessions and on the group chat, we do not permit misinformation that causes harm to individuals, our community, or the larger public regardless of intent. Do not state opinions as facts and please ensure reputable sources are used or messages will be removed.

- **Misinformation that incites hate or prejudice towards marginalised communities is not allowed.**
- **Misinformation related to emergencies that induces panic amongst our community is not allowed.**
- **Medical misinformation that can cause harm to an individual's physical or mental health is not allowed.**
- **Do not attempt to diagnose specific medical conditions due to the potential dangers of inappropriate diagnosis so please ensure you give general advice instead.**
- **No academic cheating!**
 - **Do not post any content that could constitute cheating.**
 - **Do not request or share access to any locked exam papers.**
 - **Do not share leaked papers.**

Spam and Petitions

- **No spammers, please.** That means no advertising or other promotional activity outside that which is of direct interest to our members.
- **If you post a link, please make sure it's useful.** This isn't the place for promotional activity, so please avoid posting about both commercial and non-commercial products/services, job adverts, Facebook groups, societies and forums other than BUNS (unless you're linking to a specific, relevant thread from another forum)
- **We will remove content that involve spam, fake engagement, impersonation or misleading information that causes harm.**
- **Petitions are permitted, but you need to ensure they meet the following criteria:**
- Your Petition must be from the Change or Gov websites only. Petitions should be shared with a post explaining why it is relevant to our members.

NEXT PAGE - Trigger warnings:

Self-harm

Eating disorders

Child Abuse

Sensitive Content

Suicide and self-harm

- BUNS wants to ensure that the health and well-being of the users that make up our community are a priority and users should not feel afraid to speak openly about topics of mental health.
- If you are having thoughts of suicide or self-harming, know that there is help and you're not alone. Talking to relevant services can help you identify healthy, effective coping strategies and develop skills to manage difficult feelings.

For reference these numbers may be useful:

In a life-threatening emergency - Call 999

NHS urgent mental health helplines are for people of all ages in England. For the Bristol Area this is provided by Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust. Their 24-hour number is: **0800 953 1919**

Samaritans provides emotional support to anyone in emotional distress or struggling to cope. They provide confidential support 24 hours a day: **116 123**

University of Bristol Wellbeing Support can be requested by filling out the online form at

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/students/support/wellbeing/request-support/> , telephoning **0117 456 9860** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or emailing wellbeing-access@bristol.ac.uk

- Posts containing self-harm or suicidal messages will be removed. This is to both protect the original poster (OP) from potential unsupportive or unhelpful content but to also support those who may find the content triggering. The OP will receive a message explaining what has happened to their message and signposting them to relevant services.
- We do not allow content depicting, promoting or glorifying activities that could lead to suicide, self-harm, or eating disorders. We also do not permit users to share content depicting them partaking in, or encouraging others to partake in, dangerous activities that may lead to serious injury or death.

Child Protection

- BUNS are committed to ensuring the safety of children that may be members of both BUNS and the University of Bristol. "Child" refers to anyone under the age of eighteen.
- Suspected grooming, sexual abuse and threats to the safety of a child on our group will be fully investigated and if necessary, reported to the relevant legal authorities. Grooming behaviours are those in which an adult builds an emotional relationship with a minor in order to gain the minor's trust for the purposes of future or ongoing sexual contact, sexual abuse, trafficking, radicalisation and criminal exploitation.
- BUNS will take action and report any members or messages to the relevant legal authorities involving sexual interactions and advances between an adult and a child or children of a significant age difference.

Moderation

- Sometimes BUNS Committee Members may delete message that are posted on the group.
- Do not give out the WhatsApp link to anyone, only official Members of BUNS are allowed to be in our WhatsApp to keep it a safe space.
- If you break any of the community guidelines and rules, a reminder or warning may be issued to you by a member of the BUNS Committee.

If you have any questions or queries about this Community Guidelines, please contact a President or Vice President of the society, or email the main BUNS email address at bristolunindsoc@outlook.com.