



NCA Statement on Free and Responsible Communication

NCA has long welcomed and encouraged free, open, robust, rigorous, and even what some members perceive as uncivil debate and discussion about public matters. As stated in [NCA's Credo for Free and Responsible Communication in a Democratic Society](#), we believe "that a free society can absorb with equanimity speech which exceeds the boundaries of generally accepted beliefs and mores."

NCA has received numerous reports of communication by its members and members of the discipline that go far beyond the boundaries of free and responsible communication as envisioned and endorsed in the [Credo for Free and Responsible Communication in a Democratic Society](#). Such communication is occurring in face-to-face interactions at NCA events or at affiliated events, on social media platforms, on listservs, and via personal electronic communications to NCA members and others. Such communication is intimidating and harassing; it results in NCA members believing they are unsafe and bullied. These communications are in clear violation of NCA's [Credo on Ethical Communication](#) as they "degrade individuals and humanity through distortion, intimidation, coercion, and violence, and through the expression of intolerance and hatred."

In 2018, the NCA Legislative Assembly endorsed a "[Statement on the Protection and Defense of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression for Communication Scholars](#)" that said, in part: "The National Communication Association urges administrations, governing boards, and faculties, individually and collectively...to condemn targeted harassment and intimidation of faculty members, students, and staff." In keeping with this statement, the NCA Executive Committee condemns the targeted harassment and intimidation of our members and other individuals in the discipline that has recently occurred. The Executive Committee would remind our members that agreeing to our [Code of Conduct](#) is a necessary precondition for attending our events. While the Executive Committee commends and supports the academic freedom and freedom of expression of NCA members and others at NCA-sponsored events, it simultaneously pledges to take actions that will ensure that NCA-sponsored events are free of intimidating, harassing, demeaning, and intolerant communication.

—Approved by the Executive Committee of the National Communication Association, September 2019