

THE OXFORD MIGRATION DEBATE

FRAMEWORK FOR
THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER
2023

A group of Oxford students, academics and Heads of House have worked together to develop a series of 'Tips' for organisers, speakers, and attendees to run events which may involve the discussion of difficult or 'controversial' topics. The 'Tips' are intended to promote not to impede discussion. On 2nd November a debate will take place at Worcester College using the 'Tips' to debate whether there should be more or less migration into the UK.

KEY PRINCIPLES FOR 02.11.23

1. The event will take place within the parameters of the law and the University's Code of Practice regarding Free Speech, its statement on Freedom of Speech, and in accordance with its PREVENT policy.
2. Statements made (or views expressed by individuals) at the event will not represent the views of Worcester College or the University of Oxford. The ambition is:
 - a. to give everyone the opportunity to experiment with a line of argument;
 - b. to prevent guilt by association.
3. No one is obliged to attend the event.
4. The right to disagree should always be respected and the right not to be shocked or offended upheld.
5. Respect for the individual is essential even if a person's ideas are rejected. This means that individuals should be listened to in good faith.
6. Speakers should expect to be listened to, but must expect that their views will be subjected to robust challenge.
7. By attending an event, attendees agree to respect the speaker's right to speak and agree to allow them to be heard (e.g., without heckling or any other form of audible protest).

DAVID ISAAC WILL CHAIR THE EVENT TO:

- a. control the proceedings;
- b. recognise the need for, and if necessary request, a break in the session (e.g. if debate becomes so heated that respectful communication breaks down);
- c. facilitate free contributions from all parties;
- d. uphold free speech.

RECORDING & SHARING

- Only official photography is permitted
- No social media publicity during or ahead of the event
- No video or audio recordings
- Chatham House Rules apply: the content may be discussed outside of the event but the source may not be attributed to individuals

DURING THE EVENT

1. At the start of the event the Chair will remind:
 - a. attendees that we are launching the Tips;
 - b. rules on recording and sharing information from the session as agreed above;
 - c. the need for respect, courtesy and consideration as required by the University's [Harassment Policy](#);
 - d. who will speak and timings;
 - e. how and when the audience contribute to conversations (e.g., raised hands).
2. Remind attendees and speakers that they must respect the authority of the Chair and comply with their requests to keep to time, end or pause their presentations. However, Chairs should make such requests for the purpose of allowing the event to proceed and should not seek to control content.
3. The Chair will use their powers to uphold, rather than stifle, free speech.
4. All participants should feel entitled/able to speak, to be heard, and to respond to points made.
5. Attendees should have an opportunity to ask questions although due to time constraints it might not be possible for all to be heard.

AFTER THE EVENT

1. The Chair will check in on speakers about how they found the event, including if they have experienced any difficulties as a result of taking part. Advice should be sought from the University or police (as relevant) if required.
2. We will provide the opportunity for feedback from all attendees.
3. We will agree key outcomes and whether there should be any publicity or other communication.
4. We will consider the pros and cons of providing a recording future events. When utilised, these recordings typically include the content of speakers and not audience members (e.g. question sections), to encourage contributions from the audience.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK

Email us at: fos@worc.ox.ac.uk

Download the full 'Tips' guidance
document at www.worc.ox.ac.uk/fos

A JOINT INITIATIVE DEVELOPED BY:

Balliol College, Brasenose College, Mansfield College,
Somerville College & Worcester College

