

Resolution on Inclusiveness
(approved by the Faculty Senate 10/21/03)

The Faculty Senate of Georgetown University, prompted by the Commencement address delivered last May by Cardinal Arinze, affirms, and calls on the University to reaffirm publicly, its commitment to an inclusive, pluralistic community. Georgetown has from its start been open to people of all faiths. Today, we welcome all women and men of talent and integrity to our community as students, as Faculty colleagues, and as members of the staff. Distinctions based on gender, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, political views, social and economic background, marital status, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or disability should never be used to disadvantage any member of our community. These differences are the foundations for the diversity that makes us a dynamic center of learning and knowledge.

Catholic tradition enriches our University in countless ways: from our curriculum, to our commitment to social justice and peace, to our dedication to the development of the whole person in each of us and especially in students, to our respect for the human dignity of each different member of our community, to our efforts to foster the growth of spiritually aware individuals. We quote from the 1998 Final Report of the Task Force on Georgetown's Jesuit and Catholic Identity:

Especially as we have explored what programs and policies might give institutional life to the aims of Centered Pluralism, we have become doubly committed to Georgetown's active pursuit of diversity. This includes diversity of religious belief, which was a principle of the University's founding, as well as, today, diversity in racial, ethnic, gender, sexual, and political identities. And we are committed not only to diversity of kind. The community we imagine for Georgetown aspires not merely to co-existent tolerance for the presence of different groups; rather we seek a commitment to social justice, to the common good, and to a communal life that can only be achieved through collective participation by diverse groups in all of the different aspects of University life. True and full diversity, both in kind and in conversation, is essential to academic excellence, and it must be fundamental to the Catholic and Jesuit particularity of Georgetown.

We believe that the entire University community should be committed to affirming the dignity of every human being, to treating all with equal welcome and respect, and to imposing no arbitrary limit on the opportunities open to each of us. This commitment should not be weakened by the positions or policies of any authority within or outside our community.