

## **Participating in *theMediaNet***

### **Core Values**

#### **Respect**

You have a right to your opinions. You do not have to reveal more of yourself than you wish. You can decide if and when you want to end any conversation or discussion. You should not become the victim of aggressive behaviour. Please treat other users with the same respect. This is a fellowship.

#### **Some implications of this core value:**

- Do not reveal or speculate about users' identity, or disclose any information about them.
- Do not deliberately mislead others or play identity games, as this can be disturbing for others and undermines trust. There are lots of places on the Internet to look for a date, but this is not one of them.
- If someone wants to stop discussing a topic or end a conversation, please respect that wish.
- Do not launch personal attacks on other users. You may or may not like a person or their work. But don't use the privilege of MediaNet membership to attack or criticise someone, either directly or indirectly. As a rule of thumb, don't say anything here that you wouldn't be prepared to say face to face.
- Do not use aggressive language, including gratuitous swearing.
- Do not make threats against other users.
- Do not pass on or re-publish material from this site, either on-line or in any other format, without the specific permission of the person who wrote it.

#### **Tolerance and diversity**

TheMediaNet is a broad-based community. People come here from all sorts of backgrounds and faith traditions. They may hold different views on issues that you feel strongly about, and they may express themselves in different ways to you. We view this positively.

#### **Some implications of this core value:**

- Be generous in the way you interpret others' words. Did they misunderstand you? Are you misunderstanding them? Are you talking past each other?
- Do not try to convert everyone else to your particular point of view, especially across multiple discussions (this is sometimes known as crusading)
- Avoid comments that are sexist, racist or homophobic.

### **Constructive dialogue**

We believe that exchanging opinions and experiences can help each of us to learn about God, others and ourselves. We therefore do everything possible to cultivate a climate on the site that is conducive to such exchanges.

#### **Some implications of this core value:**

- Expect your beliefs and assumptions to be challenged, and consider unpacking them in order to help others understand you better.
- Your posts should be predominantly your own words. Do not copy and paste lengthy quotes from elsewhere – either give a link or summarise the words of others, and any quotes used should be clearly seen as such.
- Do not ridicule others because of their opinions (although engaging with and critiquing the opinions themselves in an appropriate part of the site is fine)
- Be willing to agree to differ when necessary.
- Be aware that different parts of the site are intended for different types of interaction.
- Do not post inflammatory material just to generate a predictable response (this is sometimes called trolling)
- Do not carry unresolved differences from one discussion to another.
- Don't pursue personal arguments in public.
- Do not 'spam' or otherwise use this site for advertising without written permission from the site leadership.

### **Leadership**

TheMediaNet is run by the staff of the Church and Media Network. It is their job to interpret and apply the Core Values. Please help them to do their job by complying with their requests or instructions. They in turn are accountable to the trustees of the organisation.

#### **Some implications of this core value:**

- The roles we occupy at work or elsewhere do not confer authority or status on a user of theMediaNet.
- If you have an issue you are unhappy about, please discuss it with the staff of the Church and Media Network. If you still aren't happy, please speak to the trustees, who are the final court of appeal. Do not argue with official posts or requests by hosts.
- Do not try to correct the behaviour of other users unless you are a host (this is sometimes called junior hosting)

### **Legal compliance**

theMediaNet aims to operate within the various national and international laws governing websites such as ours. The

responsibility for doing this rests with the site leadership, but there are implications for each user.

**Some implications of this core value: .**

- The current minimum age for participating in theMediaNet online activities is 16.
- Do not post or link directly to illegal or 'adult' material. Any such material should be at least '2 clicks' away from our website.
- Do not post libellous material.
- Abide by our Copyright rules - [click here for details](#) (In the law of most Western countries, any written expression is automatically covered by copyright.)
- By posting on theMediaNet you give a nonexclusive right to the Church and Media Network to use your material elsewhere on the site and for promotional purposes. (Without this right, anyone wishing to quote your post in a reply would need written permission from you to do so.) You also accept that the site leadership may edit or delete content that they consider to create legal problems or contravene the Core Values.

Please Note

In the interests of good communication we have to use a common language. So we ask all users to use English when posting on the website.

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**Remember.....**

*In the interests of the majority of site users we require you to abide by these Core Values.*

*We reserve the right to remove posting privileges or membership for anyone who persistently breaches Core Values. We try to avoid this wherever possible by engaging with people who are close to or have crossed the line, but in the most blatant cases we reserve the right to cut off the use of the site instantly.*