



## Statement on Dignity and Inclusion

### Catholic Distance University

*“Each one of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.” Pope Benedict XVI*

Catholic International University is committed to upholding and safeguarding the dignity of all persons, recognizing each human person as created in the image and likeness of God. Rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching that each human life is sacred, brought into existence through the creative love of God and made for relationship with Him, (CCC 2258) Catholic International University strives to welcome, respect, esteem, and love every person in our community.

#### Human Sexuality

As a University that adheres to the perennial teachings of the Church regarding the dignity of all human persons, we uphold what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, that all persons, regardless of orientation, “must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.” (CCC 2358). Catholic International University therefore condemns any and all direct or indirect intimidation or harassment of any person on the basis of their sexuality. Such behavior is an affront to human dignity. At the same time, Catholic teaching holds that all persons, regardless their experience of sexuality, are called to live the virtue of chastity according to their vocation and state in life. To act with injustice or to act against the virtue of chastity is to undermine the dignity of the human person.

As a university committed to the pursuit of truth communicated in love, we encourage others to join us in that pursuit with mutual respect and a desire to know and live with “joy in the truth.”

## Racism

In challenging racial discrimination and racial ideology, Catholic International University draws upon the deep tradition of the Catholic Church's intellectual tradition and social teachings to help meet the contemporary challenges to human dignity. Our mission to serve the Church and the world rests on our belief in the fundamental dignity of each human person, created in the image and likeness of God, the call to solidarity with men and women everywhere, and the call of each one to union with God.

The Church unequivocally speaks of the equality of all and their fundamental personal rights when she states, "The equality of men rests essential on their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it: 'Every form of social and cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design.'" (CCC 1935) Catholic International University upholds that all are brothers and sisters, equal in dignity, and made for "the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Romans 8:21)