Mission & Values

WEIGHING IN FOR LIBERALISM
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Who are we?

Counterweight is an organisation that helps individuals resist the imposition of Critical Social Justice (CSJ) on their day to day lives. Our primary focus is on directing individuals who have fallen foul of the ideology to the resources, advice and guidance their specific problems require.

However, we also offer a refuge for casualties of the culture wars and a supportive, non-partisan community that connects like-minded people with others in their fields of work. This has two main benefits:

1) The formation of mutually supportive teams and action groups. Our community has already organically created networks of parents, teachers, psychologists, social workers, technicians, academics and employees of institutions of art and culture who are devising practical ways to protect their professions and support each other.

2) A groundswell of knowledgeable opposition to authoritarian Critical Social Justice. As our community grows, we intend to continue producing an increasing number of educational resources and facilitating discussions that will familiarise our members with the concepts and workings of CSJ, thus equipping them with the means to confidently speak out against it.
Our core values

Counterweight is a liberal humanist organisation that values individualism, universalism, viewpoint diversity and the free exchange of ideas. We defend scientific, reasoned, rigorous and empirical approaches to knowledge production and to justice and equality.

Our main focus is CSJ, though we oppose authoritarianism and censorship of all kinds. We do not support attempts to ban Critical Social Justice ideas. People must have the freedom to believe and advocate whichever ideas they wish. We only ask that they do not force their beliefs on anyone else.

Counterweight works with and for people from all over the political spectrum, with a wide variety of cultural, ethical, religious and philosophical views. Not all of these people identify as liberal humanists.

We do, however, expect them to support equal freedoms, rights and opportunities for all human beings under the law and to view all human beings as equals, regardless of race, gender, sexuality or any other identity category.
We define liberalism as a conflict resolution mechanism, not a political ideology. Liberalism views the wide variety of human beliefs on almost every subject imaginable as a strength. We encourage civil, reasoned debate for the purposes of advancing knowledge, finding common ground and making reasonable accommodations for differing opinions.

Liberalism is not the solution to disagreements, but a system that allows us to disagree without turning to violence or authoritarianism. We therefore believe that principled people from across the political spectrum have a vested interest in protecting the foundations of liberal society.
HUMANISM, INDIVIDUALISM AND UNIVERSALISM

Our work centres human wellbeing and tolerant co-existence because we believe that our shared humanity transcends shallow political and ideological divides and identity groupings.

We reject ideologies that seek to diminish individual agency or deny the rich diversity of human thought by imposing homogeneous group categories or arguing that knowledge and values are determined by one’s identity.

We oppose racism, sexism, homophobia and other prejudices that violate universal human dignity and equality. We reject fatalistic explanations that everybody is unavoidably socialised into white supremacist, patriarchal or homophobic beliefs. We believe that individuals can and should choose not to hold bigoted views.

We contend that the remaining injustices in our societies should be addressed using the most rigorous empirical and rational methods at our disposal. This means that people must be able to investigate all potential causes of social disparities—including those that contradict the social constructionist views of Critical Social Justice—without fear of being censored or cancelled.
Why was Counterweight formed?

Following the death of George Floyd and the BLM protests, new policies and training programmes based on Critical Social Justice ideology suddenly began to be introduced into workplaces, universities and schools.

Many people who found CSJ at odds with their own principles spoke out against this and were formally censured, disciplined or fired for voicing their conscientious objections to the new orthodoxy. Many more self-censored for fear of such consequences.

Thousands of such individuals began to seek help and advice from people who had spoken publicly about the threat to liberal societies posed by Critical Social Justice. We created a Discord server so that we could triage the incoming appeals, prioritise people facing immediate danger of disciplinary action and provide practical information, support and resources to people with less urgent problems.

Individuals can most effectively resist authoritarian impositions of Critical Social Justice beliefs when they thoroughly understand CSJ and can confidently articulate their principled opposition.

Counterweight helps people understand the theoretical basis of CSJ ideology and provides a space where liberalminded people from across the political spectrum can network and engage in civic discourse.
What does Counterweight do?

1) We receive referrals of individuals facing a CSJ-related problem and take the details of their cases. We then direct them to the appropriate sources of advice including, if necessary, a legal or theoretical advisor, a mentor in their field or a formal or informal group.

2) We facilitate the formation of action groups within certain professions and help them develop their own networks to push back against CSJ.

3) We unite these separate groups under the Counterweight umbrella so that they can co-operate with each other.

4) We collaborate with other organisations that prize liberalism, freedom of speech and belief, science, reason and viewpoint diversity.

5) We keep up-to-date records of individual cases, policies and training programmes in order to build a picture of what precisely is happening and where.
6) We liaise with people at influential institutions, who keep us informed of developments in their fields.

7) We plan to help develop ‘non-woke’ employment schemes.

8) We research people’s legal rights and liaise with trade unions.

9) We solicit volunteers with various kinds of expertise, ranging from lawyers to artists. We are especially proud of our volunteer mental health support network.

10) We produce scholarly but accessible books, articles, podcasts and videos.
1) To continue building a community and creating a groundswell of people who feel confident that they understand CSJ and can oppose it in principled ways.

2) To build bigger networks within specific professions and connect them under the Counterweight umbrella.

3) To rejuvenate liberalism and help people feel confident of their ability to defend liberal values.

4) To continue monitoring and critiquing CSJ scholarship and decrease its prestige.

5) To facilitate writing that critiques postcolonial/decolonial theory and Critical Race Theory and advocates more liberal forms of opposition to racism. We are particularly keen to encourage writing by intellectuals and journalists from racial and ethnic minority groups who have been personally impacted by these theories.

6) To produce critiques of anti-scientific and ideological forms of queer and gender theory and facilitate productive discussions between women’s and trans rights advocates on subjects like women-only spaces and women’s sports. We hope to generate reasoned debate between liberal, science-minded people on both sides of these thorny issues.
7) To produce written critiques of anti-scientific and ideological theories concerning disability and obesity and advocate liberal, evidence-based opposition to the discrimination faced by disabled and obese people.

8) To facilitate the production of scholarly and popular writing by clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors and other mental health care workers about the negative impacts of CSJ on their field.