



# Girne American University

## *Communication on Engagement*

*Period covered: 28 September 2017 - 28 September 2019*





26 September 2019

To UN Global Compact,

I am pleased to confirm that Girne American University reaffirms its support to the **United Nations Global Compact** and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

GAU is a university which provides high standards of education for the students of over 103 different countries and also it is the first university in North Cyprus that had been granted the accreditation of the academic programs from the world wide recognized accreditation institutions. As an academic institution, we strive to regularly communicate our dedication to achieving SDGs at the organisational level.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions that our University has taken during the 2017-2019 period to support the UN Global Compact.

We commit to sharing this document with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

**Dr Serhat Akpınar**  
Chancellor



# Indicators

Human Rights	Labour Conditions	Environment	Anti Corruption
Freedom of Thought	Transparency of University Policies	Campus Recycling Program	Anti-Plagiarism Program
Thematic Events	Strategic Planning		
Cooperation with other Stakeholders for Human Rights Awareness Building			
Evaluation of Admission Policies			

# HUMAN RIGHTS

# Human Rights

Freedom of Thought

Thematic Events

Cooperation with other Stakeholders for Human Rights Awareness Building

Evaluation of Admission Policies



GAU is a signatory of the Magna Charta Universities Constitution to promote Academic Integrity and Freedom of Thought in universities. As a member of this Association, GAU abides by the principles set out in the Magna Charta Universitatum. In this COE reporting period, GAU was represented at the Annual Magna Charta conferences, and discussed the threats and opportunities with its European counterparts.

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# Human Rights

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Freedom of Thought

**Thematic Events**

Cooperation with other Stakeholders for Human Rights Awareness Building

Evaluation of Admission Policies

Since 2017 GAU has focused its each Academic Year on the promotion of a topic reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals. Accordingly, the Academic Years were given the following themes:

2017 - 2018: Year of Innovation

2018 - 2019: Year of Sustainability

2019 - 2020: Year of Oceans

All social responsibility projects and partnerships carried out in that given Academic Year reflected the theme chosen for that year. An online event repository was devised and each year's events were collected on this site: [thisyear.gau.edu.tr](http://thisyear.gau.edu.tr)

# Human Rights

Freedom of Thought

- GAU partnered with the **US Embassy** for series of thematic talks including Women's Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Human Rights, and Climate Change. (2017)

Thematic Events

- GAU partnered with the **UN Accredited DMW Diplomats International** to host the Annual Summit where leading thought-leaders were hosted on campus over the course of 2 days to discuss SDGs and Cyprus' preparedness. (2017)

- Chancellor of the GAU attended the **UN Global Compact Leaders Conference** to hear best-practices from industry leaders. (2017)

**Cooperation with other Stakeholders for Human Rights Awareness Building**

- Faculty of Architecture established the **De-Urbanisation Studio**, which looks at sustainable urban planning practices and offers thought-leadership on environmentally friendly design solutions. (2018)

Evaluation of Admission Policies

- University signed a protocol of cooperation with **SOS Children's Village, Kyrenia Youth Center** and reaffirmed its long-standing agreement with the **Cyprus Child Foundation**. University has agreed to allocate Scholarships for at-risk youth groups. (2018)

# Human Rights

Freedom of Thought

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Thematic Events

- GAU's Admission and Registrar's Offices regularly evaluate the incoming applications to ensure the presence of a truly diverse student body. A special focus is placed on ensuring 'gender-balance' in admissions to make sure the student body split is as close to 50:50 as possible. The policies in this respect have been standing for a long time.

Cooperation with other Stakeholders for Human Rights Awareness Building

- The student body across Associate Level all the way up to PhD level reflects a 40:60 split in favour of male students. The trend reflects a poor split in Postgraduate level with women in PhD programs composing app. 20% of all students. University took note of this trend, and shall put measures in place to ensure equal opportunity for women. (2019).

**Evaluation of Admission Policies**



# LABOUR CONDITIONS

# Labour Conditions

## Transparency of University Policies

Strategic Planning

- The University published its Academic Catalog for the first time in 2018-2019 Academic Year and it has been put in revision for the 2019-2020 Academic Year. Previously, the Catalog only contained the description of academic programs, whereas this time special emphasis was placed on expanding the contents to cover university policies. The Catalog is published online on GAU's website for review of all students, staff and stakeholders and the link can be found here: [https://issuu.com/girneamerican/docs/gau\\_katalog\\_2018\\_09\\_06\\_pages](https://issuu.com/girneamerican/docs/gau_katalog_2018_09_06_pages)



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# Labour Conditions

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Transparency of University  
Policies

- University passed the decision to establish an ad-hoc committee and a working document to reflect and track milestones. The Committee has taken notice of the SDGs and University's affiliation with the UN Global Compact and has been mindful of reflecting the 10 Principles set out in the UN Global Compact.

-University regularly receives representatives from national and international accrediting agencies to ensure compliance with the regulations.

**Strategic Planning**

ENVIRONMENT

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# Environment

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## Campus Recycling Program

- As part of the University-wide commitment to recycling and limiting carbon footprint, all campus printers' default setting was put on two-sided to cut down paper consumption. A reorganisation of all available printers was consolidated across floors to minimize automatic printing habits of employees. (2017)
- Although not part of the campus recycling program, the University campus has an animal welfare policy, whereby the University students and staff provide huts for stray dogs and cats on the university's campus along with food and water.
- University Student Center has been teaming up with student clubs and local public schools to facilitate book and clothing donations. During this reporting period 3 public schools were select beneficiaries from this program. (2017 & 2018)

ANTI CORRUPTION

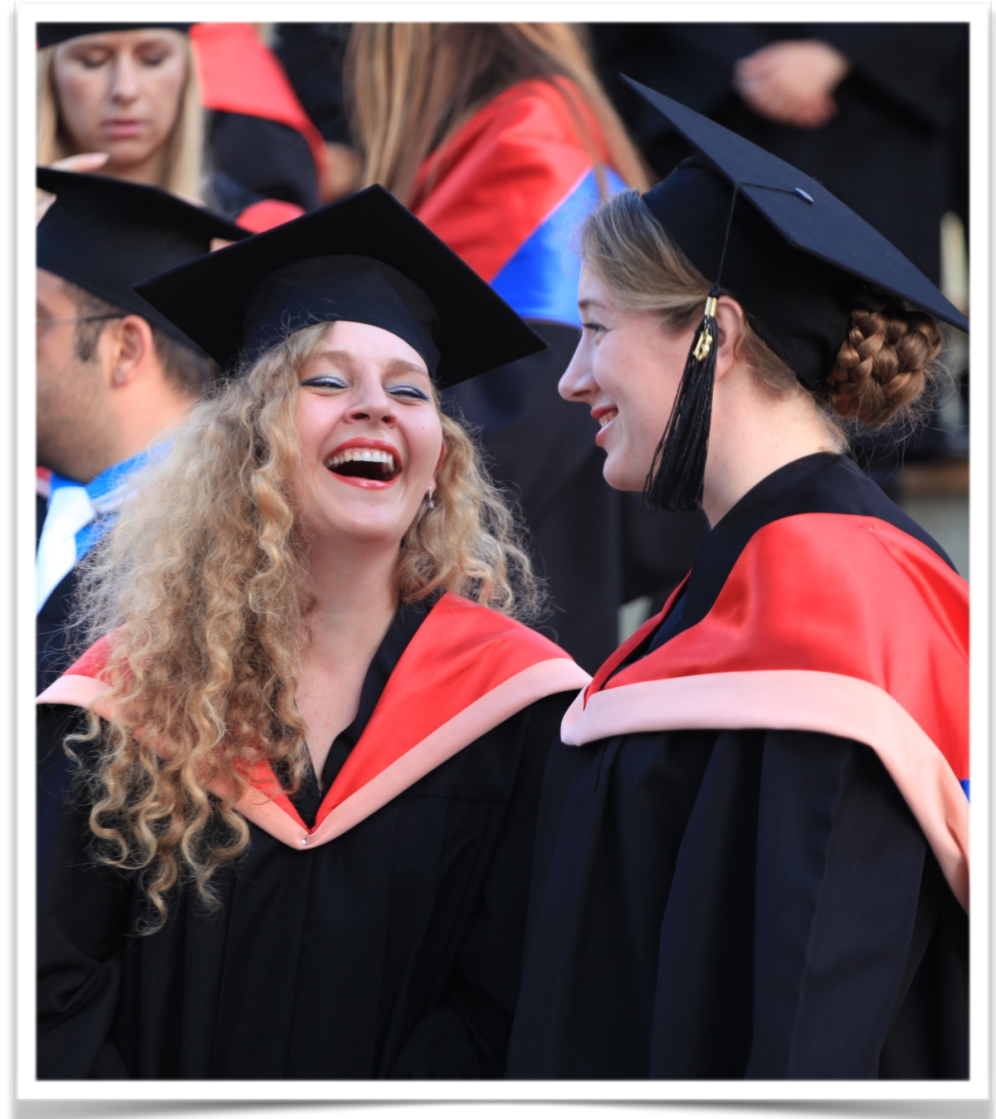
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# Anti Corruption

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**Anti-Plagiarism Program**

- The University runs regular workshops on Referencing and Anti-Plagiarising. Writing Center (established in 2017) regularly advises students and faculty.



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