



# GAU

GIRNE AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY

**GIRNE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

**COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT**

**UN GLOBAL COMPACT**

Period Covered: September 2019 – December 2021

## Statement of Continued Support to UN Global Compact

April 12, 2022

To UN Global Compact,

I am pleased to confirm that Girne American University reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are committed to embracing and supporting the UN Global Compact Principles by aligning our operations and strategies to reflect this commitment.

As a trailblazer in the promotion of UN SDGs, during this reporting period we continued organizing events and implementing policies that reflect our dedication to achieving SDGs at the national and international level.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions that our University has taken during the 2019-2021 reporting period. We commit to sharing this document with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely Yours,

**Dr. Serhat Akpınar**

Chancellor

Girne American University



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# 1) HUMAN RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

## a. Freedom of Thought & Academic Integrity

Girne American University is a signatory to the Magna Charta Universitatum to promote Academic Integrity and Freedom of Thought in Universities. As a member Magna Charta, GAU abides by the principles set out in the Magna Charta Universitatum.

In this COE reporting period, GAU was represented by the Founding Rector Dr. Serhat Akpınar at the Annual Magna Charta conferences, and discussed the threats and opportunities with its European counterparts and also signed the new updated version of the Magna Carta Universitatum in 2020 to reflect the demands of the contemporary times.





## b. Thematic Events

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:

2019-2020: Year of Oceans

2021-2022: UN Sustainable Development Goals

All social activities, 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: [gau.edu.tr](http://gau.edu.tr)

University is continuing the protocol of cooperation with SOS Children's Village, Kyrenia Youth Center and reaffirmed its long-standing agreement to allocate Scholarships for at-risk youth groups. (2021)

GAU organized series of thematic talks on gender equality including Women's Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Human Rights (2022)



## c. Evaluation of Admission Policies

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.

The student body across Associate Level all the way up to PhD level reflects a 40:60 split in favor of male students. The trend reflects a poor split in Postgraduate level with women in PhD programs composing approximately 20% of all students. University took note of this trend, and shall put measures in place to ensure equal opportunity for women. (2020).



### 3) LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### a. Pandemic Work Conditions & Public Health Measures

In an effort to tackle the effect of Covid19 pandemic, University established a Test and Vaccination Centre to support the local populations and the Ministry of Health's efforts in delivering vaccinations.

During the Covid19 pandemic, University implemented a flexible work arrangement for the benefit of public health.

Our Non-discrimination policies are in effect in effect and amongst our labor force.





## 4) ENVIRONMENT

### a. Campus Recycling Program & Events

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 reorganization of all available printers was consolidated across floors to minimize automatic printing habits of employees. This was started in 2017 and it has been continued for the current reporting period. (2021)

Although not part of the campus recycling program, the University also maintains 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.

For the occasion of the Forest Week celebrated between 21 - 26 March , Founding Rector Dr. Serhat Akpınar gave a speech to raise awareness that one of the main indicators of civilization is to protect trees and forests.

The University organized an awareness speech to students for 22 March World Water Day, which aims to carefully use and protect the scarce water resources in the world. (2022)

'Coast Cleaning Project' was carried out by the University where GAU students and local volunteers took part and cleaned the coasts of Northern Cyprus.



## 5) ANTI CORRUPTION

### a. Anti-Plagiarism Program

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





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