

Public Library of Brookline Policy Regarding Hate Speech

American public libraries support an individual's right to free speech. However, the public library at the heart of a community's civic life, must be a safe and inclusive place for people of all ages to come and to enjoy. The Library embraces, celebrates, and reflects our diverse community and country. We strive to create an environment where people from varied backgrounds and experiences can engage with one another respectfully, explore ideas and art, evaluate information, and acquire new skills and knowledge - including learning about human experiences and perspectives which are different from their own.

Therefore, the Public Library of Brookline will not tolerate hate speech directed at patrons or staff.

Uslegal.com definition:

[Hate speech] ... is an incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons defined in terms of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and the like. Hate speech can be any form of expression regarded as offensive to racial, ethnic and religious groups and other discrete minorities or to women.¹

Further, the Library's Acceptable Patron Behavior Policy specifies:

- Respect for other Library users shall be maintained at all times.
- Patrons and staff will treat others with respect.
- Any Library user, in the opinion of the staff, who is engaging in conduct inconsistent with the orderly operation of the library, will be asked to leave.

Hate speech directed at a member of the public or staff clearly violates our Acceptable Patron Behavior Policy.

1. <https://definitions.uslegal.com/h/hate-speech>