

## **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY Instructions**

*Download and edit the letter below to reflect the addressee and your status as an alumnus or parent(s) of alumni. Add additional comments as you see fit. To make the biggest impact, email your letter to multiple university contacts, including:*

**Mary C. Boyce, Provost** [provost@columbia.edu](mailto:provost@columbia.edu)

**Columbia Alumni Association** [alumni@columbia.edu](mailto:alumni@columbia.edu)

**Columbia Board of Trustees** [secretary@columbia.edu](mailto:secretary@columbia.edu)

**Ryan Hart, Gift Planning** [gift.planning@columbia.edu](mailto:gift.planning@columbia.edu)

*If you provide automatic recurring donations to Columbia, this letter will not be enough to halt your support. To end your recurring gift, contact the university office that manages your support.*

### **Letter to Columbia University**

Dear [ADDRESSEE],

My name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a member of the class of [XXXX] at Columbia University. As an alumnus who has given financial support, I am pledging to cease my donations. I refuse to fund a school that does not value a free exchange of ideas or support open discourse.

In the 2022-23 school year, the non-partisan Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) ranked U.S. universities on their commitment to free expression and open inquiry. Imagine my disappointment to see my alma mater in last place—203rd out of 203. FIRE's report also noted Columbia's repressive speech code and low level of student comfort in expressing ideas. Most shocking, the vast majority of Columbia students surveyed expressed support for disrupting speakers with whom they disagree.

The erosion of free expression at Columbia is beyond disappointing—it is disgraceful. Instead of fostering an atmosphere where ideas flourish, Columbia is enforcing self-censorship, ideological conformity, and a culture of fear among students, faculty, and staff. Until there is overwhelming evidence that Columbia recommits to ensuring intellectual freedom, I will withhold my financial support. This evidence includes, but is not limited to, dismantling Columbia's DEI bureaucracy.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]