

Item 117

**RESOLUTION NO. 107**

**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY,**

**UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW**

dated May 28, 2019

on the adoption of the Climate Change Declaration

pursuant to § 40 item 10 of the Statute of the University of Warsaw (consolidated text of Monitor UW from 2015 item 150 as amended.) The Council of the Faculty of Psychology decides as follows:

§ 1

A declaration on climate change is adopted, annexed to the resolution.

§ 2

The resolution comes into force on the day of its adoption.

Dean of the Faculty of Psychology: D. Maison

## **Annex to Resolution No. 107 of the Council of the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Warsaw of 28 May 2019 regarding the adoption of the Climate Change Declaration**

The Council of the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Warsaw expresses its support for researchers dealing with the subject of climate change on Earth. Their position is contained, among others things, in the declaration of the Geophysics Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences<sup>1</sup>

There is a scientific consensus that global warming caused by human activities is a serious danger to the future of people and the natural environment. Risks related to global warming concern, among others things, threats such as losing places to live and deaths for millions of people and extinction of species on a massive scale.

The widespread acceptance of scientific knowledge is crucial to prevent the most serious consequences of the climate crisis. Its rejection, often observed in public space, may delay the implementation of urgent and necessary solutions. Denying the existence of climate change is also an expression of another problem: the loss of public confidence in science, in the value of reason and knowledge, and therefore it is an important issue for the whole academic community.

As scientists, we support scientists - physicists, climatologists and other researchers of climate change. We appeal to the whole community to give the highest priority to climate change mitigation on Earth and take all possible action in this matter. We appeal in particular to:

1) increase one's own and others' awareness of the results of research on climate change and their consequences. Taking advantage of the opportunity to contact students, journalists and politicians, the faculty - as a professional group endowed with special social trust - should provide information about the seriousness of the situation and resist appearing myths that are in conflict with rational, evidence-based knowledge<sup>2</sup>.

2) take into account the issue of climate change on Earth - due to its complex and universal character - in the scientific work conducted in all disciplines. For example, psychologists are already predicting serious consequences of climate change, including the build-up of anxiety in general population and worsening of post-traumatic stress symptoms due to frequent natural disasters<sup>3</sup>. In psychology, also phenomena such as denying climate change or fear associated with it are studied.

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<sup>1</sup> The position of the Geophysical Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences on the progressing climate change [http://www.kgeof.pan.pl/images/stories/pliki\\_2018/Stanowisko\\_Komitetu\\_2018.pdf](http://www.kgeof.pan.pl/images/stories/pliki_2018/Stanowisko_Komitetu_2018.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Reliable and accessible knowledge on climate change can be found i.a. under: <https://naukaoklimacie.pl/>  
[*Science on climate change*]

<sup>3</sup> Psychology and Global Climate Change: Addressing a Multi-faceted Phenomenon and Set of Challenges, the report of the APA Task Force on the Interface Between Psychology and Global Climate Change, <https://www.apa.org/science/about/publications/climate-change-booklet.pdf>

3) undertake a broad discussion at the University of Warsaw and the whole community of Polish academics of all disciplines on the possibilities to take action aimed at counteracting climate change and preparing for its consequences.