

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT 2025

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

- We celebrate scientists from around the world, giving them a stage built on recognition, connection and mutual respect.
- We promote interdisciplinary and international exchange.
- Constructive discussions and discourses are desired and encouraged.

CODE OF CONDUCT

What we believe in:

Inspired by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, we believe that free speech, curiosity, cooperation, persistence and imagination can overcome any barrier. Therefore, the purpose of all our actions—including both in-person and digital gatherings—is to celebrate freedom, commemorate persecution and share knowledge from all over the world.

We kindly ask you for your help in the following ways:

- Creating a friendly, professional, respectful and harassment-free environment regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, nationality, age, religion, social background or perspective;
- Respecting free speech;
- Finding mindful and constructive ways to voice criticism;
- Supporting us in standing up against those who violate these values.

For more information about the Falling Walls Science Summit, please refer to our website: <https://falling-walls.com>

Who are the primary points of contact?

Please reach out to our team at the Info Counter located at the entrance of the Falling Walls Science House for any assistance. You can also approach any member of the Falling Walls Team for support.

Types of crisis (and how to deal with them):

Chat or discussion is hijacked by unacceptable content

This might include content that is:

- Pornographic
- Extremist/fascist
- Misanthropic
- Sexist
- Racist
- Discriminatory

What you should do:

- Reach out to our team at the Info Counter immediately.
- Inform on-site security.

Inappropriate communication

This might include:

- Insulting language
- Offensive comments
- Inflammatory / lurid comments (e.g., "Fake News!")
- Non-objective comments (person tries to divert debate to another topic, e.g., anti-establishment activists/sceptics)
- Inappropriate behaviour
- Violence

What you should do:

- Try to deescalate the situation. Remain respectful and factual when responding to the individual and politely remind them of our Code of Conduct.
- In case of non-compliance after warning: Let the Falling Walls Team know. We will take care of the situation.

What we're about

The Falling Walls Foundation provides crucial global platforms, connecting science, business and society via a shared mission: creating breakthrough solutions to challenges across borders and disciplines. Inspired by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, we believe that cooperation, persistence and imagination can overcome any barrier. Therefore, the purpose of all our actions and events is to celebrate freedom, commemorate persecution and share knowledge.

As part of this mission, we encourage every Falling Walls community member and every event attendee to remain curious: question barriers to knowledge, explore new fields or disciplines and engage with individuals from all walks of life. To foster this curiosity, we depend on a safe, friendly and barrier-free environment. Help us to create this by flattening hierarchies, steering clear of judgmental communication and finding respectful ways to communicate criticism, where necessary.

Non-visible disabilities – Hidden Disabilities Sunflower:

Living with a non-visible disability can be challenging in many ways. While most people are understanding, for others it can be difficult to recognise or understand the barriers that a person with hidden disabilities faces. The sunflower symbol is a discreet way for people with non-visible disabilities to indicate that they may need a little more time, understanding or support without having to explain themselves.

- If you wish, you can request a sunflower pin or wristband at the registration or Info Counter to indicate that you have a non-visible disability.

- Falling Walls Foundation staff have been trained to offer respectful and supportive assistance to people with all forms of disabilities including visible and non-visible disabilities.

Visit hdsunflower.com

Quiet area

This year we're pleased to offer guests who are seeking some downtime away from the Summit a dedicated area to unwind. This quiet area can be found in the basement of Falling Walls Science House next to the Ann Jackson room.

Online engagement

Falling Walls is all about barrier-breaking communication—on and offline. We are grateful for online posts and comments sharing impressions of the Summit as well as the messages we receive via email and on social media. We actively encourage online engagement with the Summit by providing powerful Wi-Fi, charging stations, channels and hashtags. These measures help us to spread our message online and reach more people.

Please note, however, that the Falling Walls Foundation provides no warranty and accepts no responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness of the information and materials contained in posts or published materials of third parties.

Children and guide dogs

We see all our guests as individual participants—there are no spectators at Falling Walls events. This is also why, at the Falling Walls Science Summit, we do not include “plus ones” in our invitation. However, children under the age of two are allowed to accompany their parents or caregiver free of charge. We do our best to make sure there is room for nursing, changing and other related activities.

Guide dogs are also welcome. However, please note that other animals or pets cannot be brought into Falling Walls events out of respect for our other attendees.

Finally, please bear in mind that Falling Walls cannot provide child or pet care and that the duty of supervision lies solely with the caregiver/guide dog owner throughout the event.

What we're not about

It is self-evident that our goals do not align with any form of discrimination. Falling Walls events provide professional, respectful and harassment-free environments for all participants, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, nationality, age or religion. Discriminatory behaviour will not be tolerated at Falling Walls events or within our

channels of communication, be it by guests, participants, hosts, sponsors or service providers.

We expect all participants to help create a respectful and friendly atmosphere. This means not only refraining from any form of discrimination or harassment but also standing up to this kind of behaviour as well.

Reach out for support

If you experience or witness any violation of this Code of Conduct, we strongly encourage you to turn to your closest attendee for help—no one is a spectator at Falling Walls events: we're all part of a strong and active community. In case you are not sure who to turn to: all Falling Walls team members, clearly recognisable by their badges and/or red Falling Walls badge, can be approached with your questions, concerns or request for assistance.

We're grateful to all members of our community who report a violation of this Code of Conduct to our team. Should we witness or be made aware of any violation of personal rights, we are willing to press charges. If a situation arises in which you feel misinterpreted or wrongly suspected, please also get in touch with our staff. We have team members who are trained in mediation and conflict management who are adept at managing such situations.