

## Contributing to Nation.Cymru's comments section

Nation.Cymru's goal is to create a national conversation, and that *ideally* includes an open comments section.

However, for legal reasons as well as maintaining the good name of Nation.Cymru, being able to maintain such an open forum depends on our readers not misusing the comments system. We do not moderate comments before they appear, and the views expressed in the comments are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of Nation.Cymru. *However, we do retain the right to delete anything and everything and ban users without explanation.* If we see that a person is in contravention of any of the commandments below, we will delete first and ask questions later. We do not promise either that any comments contributed to the site will be saved for posterity. If you write an essay and want to retain it, save it on your own hard drive.

Please remember that Nation.Cymru is a volunteer run news site and any time and effort spent policing comments means that time and effort not invested in the running of and improvement of the site. Keep this in mind both when posting comments and/or complaining about the quality of other's comments. *If this work becomes too arduous or if it reflects badly on the website or puts us in legal jeopardy we can and will close the comments section on any individual article or across the site as a whole, as we have in the past.*

Here therefore are the ten commandments of contributing to the Nation.Cymru comments section. These apply to comments posted on this site and not comments posted on social media, over which we have no control. Whether a comment or thread of comments has broken one of these comments is the qualitative judgement of the moderator and is final. We also retain the right to ban individuals if their previous activity suggests that they are likely to break one of these commandments:

### **1. Act with maturity and don't be unpleasant**

Arguments are won by bringing people around to your point of view, not by pummelling them into submission. Nothing will turn people against your viewpoint faster than if you engage them in an aggressive or hectoring manner. A better Wales will be built by working together.

### **2. Read the article before responding**

You may not like the headline or the first paragraph, but the rest of the article may add nuance to the author's point of view and may even win you over with some of the arguments. Unsubstantial comments that appear a few seconds or minutes after an article is published in a desperate attempt to appear 'first' in the comments section will be deleted. Also, demanding answers to questions that are given in the article is tedious for everyone. The author of the article is under no obligation to respond to you and criticism of the author for this will be deleted.

### **3. Post relevant content**

Anyone posting content irrelevant to the article will have their messages deleted and will be banned. Keep the discussion on the topic of the article. Don't use today's article as a means of settling old scores on a previous article's comment section. Conversations that veer off topic will also be deleted.

#### **4. Don't direct abuse at anyone on the comments section or off it**

Fair comment on individuals of public interest will be tolerated but abuse of or unsubstantiated allegations aimed towards any individual public or private will not be. Feel free to criticise each other's views in a robust but friendly manner but do not direct personal attacks at anyone. Any accounts which seem to have been set up for the sole purpose of repeatedly criticising or undermining any individual may also be banned.

#### **5. Don't post anything legally dubious**

Media law under the legal system of Wales and England is particularly restrictive. We don't have any money to pay legal costs and will therefore not risk any libel action, contempt of court or any other possible legal ramification arising from your comments. We are legally bound to act if any such content is brought to our attention and will do so with no hesitation if there is any suggestion that something may be actionable.

#### **6. Don't attack minority groups**

We will not tolerate anything that is abusive or intolerant towards particular groups of people based on ethnicity, language, religion, gender or sexuality. Again, we will delete first and ask questions later. Comments that conflate the actions of governments with any particular ethnic or religious group will also be deleted. Do not moan about free speech – you have the freedom to say anything you like but we also have the editorial freedom not to give you a platform to say it on this website.

#### **7. Don't spam**

Repetitive messages on the same comment section or across comment sections will be deleted and the IP address blocked.

#### **8. Don't post under multiple accounts**

Anyone seen to be commenting under multiple aliases will also be banned and their duplicitous activity brought to the attention of others. Don't post under the name of any other real individual, even if it seems clear that this is parody, either.

#### **9. Don't post commercial content**

If you want to advertise with us, contact us by email. If you want us to review your book or publicise your event, again let us know by email and we'll consider it. The comments section isn't the place to do this.

#### **10. Don't bother criticising the moderator's decisions**

Comments that whinge that previous comments have been deleted or postulate on the reasons why this has been done will be met with the same fate. Feel free to e-mail us if you have a substantial complaint but respect that the opinion of the moderators is final and that she or he does not have to justify it.