

Further Statement on ICME-15

The ICMI Executive Committee (EC) would like to thank the International Program Committee (IPC) and Local Organising Committee (LOC) of ICME-15, under the leadership of Convenor Professor Kim Beswick and LOC Chair Mr Will Morony, for their dedicated work in organising a successful ICME.

In relation to the matter affecting Prof Jayasree Subramanian, we believe that the ICME-15 Organisers were acting with the goal of maintaining a safe and respectful environment according to the Code of Conduct which had been made known to all participants. We acknowledge that an academic conference should welcome robust debate and challenging ideas, even if there is disagreement on these ideas. In this context, we respect the dignity and high academic standing of Prof Subramanian and express our gratitude for her contribution to ICME-15, especially in the plenary panel of which she was a member. We are saddened by her removal from the Congress and the distress and insult that she has experienced, and since ICMEs are organised under the auspices of ICMI, the ICMI EC would like to offer our apology to Prof Subramanian.

The EC admits that we were not sufficiently alert to the ICME-15 Code of Conduct and the lack of clarity on the process of implementing the Code. We apologize to all in our community who have been adversely impacted by this unfortunate incident and by our collective failure to avert it. In future ICMEs, we commit ourselves to working towards ensuring both robust engagement and mutual respect and wellbeing of all participants.

We acknowledge that, in hindsight, many people could have done many things differently to avoid or prevent these difficult experiences. We cannot change the past, but we can think more carefully in future about ways of promoting – at ICMEs and other ICMI events – an academic environment that is open to challenging ideas and respectful of people who bring forward and discuss these ideas. Such values have always been the spirit of ICMI. ICME-15 has achieved a lot in furthering mathematics education worldwide, and we urge all of us not to let the achievement of ICME-15 be marred by this unfortunate incident.

ICMI EC (2021-2024)