

## **NSS Style Guide for Terms Related to Space Settlement**

The NSS prefers the usage of “space settlement” and “space settlements” over “space colonization” or “space colonies.” The term “colonies” is often associated with the mistreatment and exploitation of indigenous peoples, as well as the obsolete mercantilist economic policy of impoverishing the “colony” in favor of the “home country.”

The terms “space colonies” or “space colonization” should be used only as direct quotes of a historical document or as part of a reference that used those terms. As an example, *Gerard K. O’Neill wrote the classic Physics Today paper “The Colonization of Space” in 1974.*

Terms such as “communities in space” may be subject to a variety of interpretations, while “settlements in space” is less ambiguous. However, “communities in space” has a warmer feel, and may appeal to those who associate the term “settlement” with aggressive land seizure. Hence, NSS recommends that these terms be used together, e.g., *The NSS supports the development of space as the primary path to settlements in space, and envisions a future with thriving human communities spread across the solar system.*

Taglines such as “The NSS is the preeminent citizen's voice on space exploration, development, and settlement” shall remain in use.

To maximize the number of hits from search engines, it is desirable to use all three terms in your publications. As an example of how to do this consider: *The NSS avoids using the term “space colonies” because of the negative association with Earthly colonialism. Instead, the NSS advocates for space settlements throughout the solar system, filled with families living and working in thriving communities.*

Note that the NSS Blog uses categories for both “Space Settlement” and “Space Colonization” for blog posts about space settlement, so there is no reason to use both terms in the blog post itself.