



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

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To: Edinburgh University Justice for Palestine Society

A safe and respectful campus

We want to underline how seriously we are taking the appalling episode that led to one of our students being assaulted last Friday. We understand how upsetting this is, and urge anyone affected to access the range of support we have available.

While we are assisting Police Scotland in its enquiries, we are also looking to ensure that we learn and improve from experiences, and are meeting with the Students' Association to discuss this matter.

Edinburgh is a safe city and University to study, work and live in, which makes dreadful incidents such as this all the more shocking. Our hardworking teams are highly experienced in managing security across our city-wide campus, ensuring members of our University can carry out their day confident in their safety.

We are limited in what we can say in the context of an ongoing Police investigation, however we will continue to listen and engage with our community.

Looking ahead, we ask, as always, and like many other organisations supporting peaceful protest, that those organising any events, including protests, engage with our Security team in advance in order that they can support these as effectively as possible. Security have supported very many events, of many kinds, over many years, and these have taken place most effectively when that engagement has been strong. We have not had the benefit of that pre-engagement to date with EU-JPS, which means that we are obliged to plan reactively.

Your social media posts about the incident (e.g. [Instagram](#) on 30 March) are incorrect and irresponsible. Our University fully supports the lawful and respectful expression of views and opinions. Members of our Security team are always on duty across campus and attend events including protests as a matter of routine. Team members were present at Friday's protest and provided immediate support to those affected during and after the incident.

Social media posts

Your recent social media posts (including on [Instagram](#) and [X/Twitter](#) on 28 March) in reference to 'platforming' a member of the Israeli Defence Forces directly refer to a current student. These are discriminatory, disrespectful and, more critically, potentially threaten that student's safety.

We ask that you immediately remove these posts along with the template email ([Google Docs](#)).

We are disappointed by the way that you have chosen to frame what was an important discussion on antisemitism between staff and students, one that your supporters participated in with strength and conviction. The discussion took place in a constructive manner, with the direct purpose of reaching out to all sides towards a bridging of experiences.

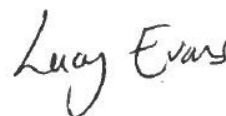
The University will not tolerate bullying, intimidation and offensive behaviour, whether online or in person. Actions which target a student and encourage others to do the same have no place in this University. We have been very clear that disciplinary action may be taken should anyone breach the Code of Student Conduct.

As we mentioned in our previous email (6 November 2024), EU-JPS represents a small minority of students – many others will have different perspectives and they should feel safe to voice their views as well. We will continue to engage with our wider student and staff community in this spirit.

Regards,



Professor Colm Harmon BA MA PhD
Vice Principal Students, University of Edinburgh



Lucy Evans
Deputy Secretary Students