

## **Adult Human Female Event – FAQs**

### **1. Why is this event taking place at the University?**

The University received a request from Edinburgh Academics for Academic Freedom (EAFAP) to host a screening and discussion of the documentary using University space, with the event being open to staff, students and members of the public.

The request for the event was considered in line with our legal duties, policies and procedures and it was decided that the event could proceed. We are fully committed to upholding freedom of expression and academic freedom while facilitating a safe environment where members of our community can discuss and debate challenging topics lawfully, all within the bounds of our Dignity and Respect policy.

### **2. Is this event part of an academic programme of the University?**

No. A number of academics are expected to be in attendance at the event (and the directors of the documentary are themselves academics), but it does not form part of any academic programme at the University. Staff, students and members of the public are free to attend, or not, as they wish.

### **3. I am aware this event has been postponed in the past – why is this?**

On previous occasions when attempts were made to stage this event, safety for all present could not be guaranteed, due to the actions of some individuals, and it was decided that the event should not continue.

In line with our commitment to fostering an inclusive, supportive and safe environment for our whole community, we previously put measures in place to mitigate any risks associated with the event when it was initially scheduled.

We have since been taking all reasonable steps to facilitate the event by working with the organisers in relation to its planning and to engage with our wider community, University Security and Police Scotland.

### **4. I am attending the event – how will it be run?**

The event will be held on Wednesday 22 November from 6pm to 8:30pm at Lecture Theatre C, 40 George Square, EH8 9JX. Adult Human Female has a BBFC rating of 15, so this is an adult-only event. The documentary will be shown, and this will be followed by questions and discussion with a number of panellists including the film-makers and contributors to the film.

All attendees should familiarise themselves with the University of Edinburgh's Dignity and Respect Policy and comply with it. Attendees should bring some form of ID in the name in which they booked their ticket, and try to avoid bringing large bags or items of luggage as these may be subject to checks

### **5. I am attending and have some questions about the event – who can I contact with these?**

The event is being organised by a group of University staff, Edinburgh Academics for Academic Freedom. If you have questions about the event, please refer to your booking confirmation details and contact the organisers.

**6. Is the University endorsing the views expressed in the film by hosting this event?**

No. Many hundreds of events take place across the University every year, and a range of views may be expressed at any particular event. We take an agnostic approach to the subject matter of requested events and we do not - expressly or implicitly - endorse any views that may be expressed on our campus in the context of such events. Our role is to consider whether a requested event can take place in terms of the policies and procedures we have in place to ensure compliance with relevant legislation, including our commitment to freedom of expression and our commitment to promoting a culture of inclusion and respect, while recognising the difficult balance between these.

**7. I feel strongly that this event should proceed. What is the University doing to ensure that it does?**

We have taken steps in line with our legal duties, policies and procedures to support members of our community to host events on controversial topics. The safety of everyone on our campus is our priority.

While we have determined that this event can be held on campus, our role is to facilitate the event in a manner which observes a wide range of obligations to our staff, students and any visitors to our campus, including those in relation to the health and safety of those attending.

**8. I believe the content of the documentary is misinformed, offensive, and breaches the University's Dignity and Respect Policy, so why has the event been allowed to proceed?**

We are aware that the content of the documentary is considered controversial and that some members of our community view the content as offensive and unacceptable. We are also conscious that some members of our community will not feel comfortable attending the event, even where they may wish to make points in relation to the issues raised in the film.

However, as set out in our [Statement on Freedom of Expression](#), we are committed to upholding freedom of expression and therefore facilitating an environment where members of our community who wish to do so can gather to view and discuss this documentary.

Our relevant policies in relation to [Dignity and Respect](#) will be highlighted to staff and students who choose to attend the event, and an experienced individual has been appointed to chair the event.

We want to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for all members of our community, and we are committed to providing a safe space for students and staff to

learn about points of view which differ from their own. We are exploring other ways in which people can challenge points of view that are being put forward, without attending the event itself. We are also aware that some staff and students feel strongly about this event, and we are committed to the welfare of everyone in our community.

**9. Some members of the University community don't want this event to proceed – are they being ignored?**

No. We have engaged with, and listened to the views of, a range of stakeholders in relation to this event. However, in this particular case, having reviewed the request to hold this event under our applicable policies and with due regard to our relevant legal obligations, we do not consider it is appropriate to prohibit those who wish to exercise their legal right to gather to view and discuss this documentary from doing so.

We recognise that the event is opposed by some members of our community and will offer support to those who feel impacted by the event proceeding, including those who feel strongly that the event should not be permitted. We will also allow those who wish to exercise their own rights of freedom of expression and assembly to protest this event, as set out below, and providing additional support to those who may feel they need it, as referenced above.

**10. Some members of the University community feel strongly that allowing this event to proceed is harmful to certain groups or individuals, particularly trans people, within our community. Why is the University therefore facilitating it?**

Our role, in relation to events which are planned and organised by members of the University community, is to determine whether events can take place in line with our policies and procedures. Having reviewed those carefully, we have determined that the event organisers can hold the event on campus. Our commitment to upholding freedom of expression means that we allow and expect open debate on challenging ideas and topics. Individuals are entitled to hold opinions, and to receive and impart information and ideas, even where others may disagree with those ideas or opinions. We recognise however that opinions expressed by some individuals at events on campus will, from time to time, contradict or conflict with the views of other members of our community. We therefore offer support to those who feel impacted by the event proceeding, as further set out in question 12 below.

**11. How can I protest against this event?**

We firmly uphold the legal right of people to take part in peaceful and lawful protest. In order to ensure the safety of everyone attending the event, there will be a designated area for protest. Further information on this will be available in due course.

Any form of protest should adhere to our [Staff and Student Protest Guidelines](#) and must not involve the harassment of staff, students or any other individuals, including relating to the lawful expression of protected beliefs (which include gender critical views). Staff and Students should familiarise themselves with the University's relevant disciplinary policies.

## **12. Where can I get support if I'm concerned by the issues raised by this event?**

The Respect at Edinburgh hub provides further information on our Dignity and Respect policy, how to raise concerns and what support is available:

[Respect at Edinburgh](#)

A full range of the support available to students is available at:

[How we support you](#)

[Support in a crisis](#)

Support for staff is available at:

[Staff Health and Wellbeing Hub](#)