



Department
for Education

Accountable Officers
Alternative Providers of Higher Education



Department for
Business, Energy

Jo Johnson MP
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Dear Accountable Officer

TACKLING ANTI-SEMITISM ON CAMPUS

I am writing to inform you that the Government recently adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA), definition of anti-Semitism, to help clarify how anti-Semitism can manifest itself in the 21st century:

“Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

The definition is intended to help front-line services better understand and recognise instances of anti-Semitism, and gives examples of the kind of behaviours, which, depending on the circumstances, could constitute anti-Semitism.

The full text of the definition can be found at:

https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/press_release_document_antisemitism.pdf.

I would be grateful if you would disseminate this in your organisation so that this position is widely known and clearly understood.

There is no place in our society - including within higher education – for hatred or any form of discrimination or racism such as anti-Semitism. Higher education providers have a responsibility to ensure that they provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students, and that students do not face discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

I expect all higher education providers to discharge their responsibilities fully and to have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law, to investigate and swiftly address hate crime, including any anti-Semitic incidents that are reported.

I am sure you share my concerns about the rising reports of anti-Semitic incidents in this country and will want to make sure that your organisation is a welcoming environment for all students and that the legal position is universally understood and acted upon at all times. This will include activities such as those that might take place under the banner of "Israel Apartheid" each year for instance. Such activities need to be properly handled by higher education providers to ensure that our values, expectations and laws are not violated.

In September 2015 the Government asked Universities UK (UUK) to set up a Harassment Taskforce to consider what more can be done to address harassment on campus, including on the basis of religion and belief. The taskforce published its report: '*Changing the Culture*', on 21 October 2016. Universities UK plan to establish more baseline evidence, and to assess institutions' progress in implementing the recommendations, so that the work of the taskforce makes a real difference. Universities UK will report their progress to me later this year.

This Government will diligently pursue our commitment to tackle intolerance and bigotry in every form; and continue to work in partnership with public bodies and communities to support institutions in the pursuit of eliminating anti-Semitism and all forms of harassment, discrimination or racism.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jo', written in a cursive style.

JO JOHNSON MP