
Goldsmiths, University of London
New Cross, London SE14 6NW
www.gold.ac.uk
Tel +44 (0)20 7919 7171

Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sent by email only to: bridget.phillipson.mp@parliament.uk

25 June 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing as Chair of Council and Vice-Chancellor at Goldsmiths, University of London to share an important update following the conclusion of an independent inquiry into antisemitism at our institution.

It is with regret that the inquiry concludes that our students and staff have experienced antisemitism in the course of their studies and work.

We are very sorry for this and have extended our deepest apologies to those in our community who have been affected by such unacceptable behaviours. We are clear that antisemitism cannot be tolerated at Goldsmiths and want to reassure our university that we are taking action against such behaviour as a form of racism.

Goldsmiths is immediately starting a two-year antisemitism action plan to build a culture of belonging for all Jewish students and staff, and for all religions and beliefs at the university, nurturing evidence-based dialogue as a form of positive activism and engagement. Secretary of State we felt it was important to share this information directly with you.

Findings of the inquiry

The purpose of the inquiry as set out in its terms of reference was to determine whether Jewish students or staff had experienced antisemitism in the course of their studies or work at Goldsmiths, since September 2018.

Regrettably, the inquiry found that antisemitism had been experienced by our students and staff in this time. It also found that the university could have done more when responding to reports of antisemitism and as a result of this called for our processes and protocols to be improved.

The full inquiry report is published on [the Goldsmiths website](#).

The inquiry points out similarities between the Jewish student experience at Goldsmiths, at other universities and in the NUS.

Welcoming recent progress, the inquiry invites Goldsmiths to reset its culture through a restorative, relational approach, understanding antisemitism as a form of racism. The inquiry makes 17 practical recommendations to improve the student and staff experience, including training, complaints and acceptable behaviour.

The inquiry's recommendations are explicitly designed to be compatible with protections for legitimate political protest. This aims to reassure concerns about freedom of speech for those seeking to criticise Israel and promote the cause of Palestine on campus.

How we're taking action

Goldsmiths Council and the university's Executive Board accept the independent inquiry's findings without reservation.

We commit to implement all 17 recommendations through a 12-point action plan over the next two years. Within this action plan, a key initiative is to put in place a university framework for positive activism and engagement.

The action plan will be led by Adam Dinham, Professor of Religion and Belief Literacy and University Lead for Culture and Inclusion. He will be supported by a newly-established Religion and Belief Group. This brings together academic and professional expertise in religion and belief literacy, activism, inclusion, and social justice.

The full antisemitism action plan is on [the Goldsmiths website](#).

Our targets

By the end of Autumn term in academic year 2025/26, Goldsmiths will:

- Establish an advisory panel, drawn from the Jewish community, students, and staff
- Re-design Goldsmiths antiracism training to recognise antisemitism as racism
- Develop better mechanisms to report and track antisemitism
- Improve support services for students and staff affected by antisemitism
- Expand chaplaincy, interfaith work, and community spaces

By the end of academic year 2026/27, Goldsmiths will make progress in five areas:

- Leadership and governance to prevent antisemitism through better decision-making
- Scholarship on antisemitism, religion and belief literacy, conflict resolution, and interfaith dialogue
- Training staff and students to understand and notice antisemitism
- Policy and procedures for robust prevention and intervention, including regular reports
- Campus culture to foster a community in which Jewish staff and students can flourish

Goldsmiths will be guided by these principles, based on the inquiry recommendations:

- Our restorative, relational approach will build a culture of positive activism and engagement at Goldsmiths, through dialogue
- Protect academic freedom and freedom of speech - evidence-based dialogue will be nurtured as an important tool for free expression, alongside, not instead of, other forms of activism and protest
- Personal attacks, harassment, and discrimination will not be tolerated. No student or staff should feel unsafe or unwelcome
- Support for anyone harmed by antisemitism in our community

Background to the inquiry

The inquiry was undertaken by Mohinderpal Sethi KC. A call for evidence invited students, staff, alumni and members of the public and public groups to submit relevant evidence, views or insight to the inquiry. Submissions were open from 18 May 2023 until 18 August 2023 and evidence needed to relate to the period from 1 September 2018 onwards.

In line with the terms of reference, Mr Sethi determined that submissions relating to earlier examples could be allowed and also allowed for flexibility following the events of 7 October 2023.

How we must work together

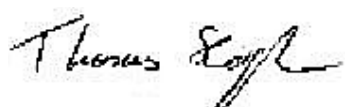
Antisemitism has no place at Goldsmiths. As with all forms of racism, antisemitism prevents people from entering, enjoying and contributing fully to our university. The inquiry sets out a disturbing picture.

The report rightly states that we owe it to former, current and future Jewish students and staff to learn from our mistakes. We share responsibility, as a community, to show Goldsmiths can be a place where Jewish students and staff feel valued, supported, and proud to be part of our university.

As the inquiry highlights, we are already making progress on key issues. Today, we commit to lasting cultural change with respect to Jewish students and staff, and for all religions and beliefs, drawing on our intellectual heritage and our longstanding belief in social justice. As a key partner, we would like to thank you in advance for your support as we take forward this critical work for the good of everyone at Goldsmiths.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Tom Sleight
Chair of Council, Goldsmiths, University of London



Professor Frances Corner OBE
Vice-Chancellor, Goldsmiths, University of London