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LSJS

London School of Jewish Studies

Free Speech & Academic Freedom Policy

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The London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS) is open to people, places, methods and ideas.

All members of LSJS faculty and students have freedom within the law to:

- Hold and express opinions
- Question and test established ideas or received wisdom
- Develop and advance new ideas or innovative proposals
- Present controversial or unpopular points of view

In the exercise of this freedom, we acknowledge, that as part of a welcoming and inclusive community, we have responsibilities to each other and to the wider society to:

- Value diversity and recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge and culture and that this difference brings great strength.
- Treat others with courtesy and tolerance, challenge inequalities, and anticipate and respond positively to different needs and circumstances.
- Tolerance for the rights of individuals to hold different beliefs and views and to express them through appropriate contribution to discussion and academic debate.
- Communicate in ways that are clear, relevant, respectful, accurate and timely, and exemplified by transparency and constructive dialogue.

This means that:

- We will be academically rigorous, justify our views with evidence and academic argument and be willing to recognise the gaps and weaknesses in our own arguments.
- In promoting our ideas, we will make every reasonable effort to minimise the risks of any harm, either physical or psychological, arising for any person, institution or community.

No staff or students will be disadvantaged in any way if they are upholding the principles of free speech and Academic Freedom, so long as they remain within the limits of the British judiciary system. This will be considered alongside the LSJS Preventing Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy and any relevant legislation.

LSJS has a duty of care to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism with reference to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the Prevent Duty Guidance 2023. Further information on our policies and procedures in fulfilling this duty of care can be found at our Prevent Policy.

This Free Speech and Academic Freedom Policy is guided by the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 and Regulatory advice 24: Guidance related to freedom of speech from the Office for Students.

Signed on behalf of the LSJS Senior Leadership Team by Paul Gould, Chief Operating Officer

Date created: August 2023

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