

## **Protest guidelines**

Dear Edinburgh University Justice for Palestine Society,

Your ongoing commitment to a campaign in support of justice for Palestine is a strong statement of your views, and as a University we continue to support your rights of expression.

In the run-up to the new academic year, I am writing to remind you of the University's [Protest Guidelines](#). We appreciate the regard given to these guidelines by students participating in the protests and rallies to date on our campus, including, but not limited to, EUJPS.

We are keenly aware of the strength of feeling as demonstrated in the ongoing focused protests at the actions and policies of the University, and parts of the University leadership. That said, we would remind you and all participating in protests of the standards we expect of our students at all times. This includes around the use of social media as set out in our [Code of Student Conduct](#) and [University policies](#), particularly in relation to commentary about or directed towards individuals or groups of people. The standards set out in our policies continue to apply, notwithstanding our recognition of our students' right to peaceful and lawful protest.

We particularly ask that students refrain from making statements (whether online, or in attendance at a protest, rally or other event) which are likely to breach our policies, or which may be unlawful, are personal attacks, or which may be considered offensive to those within our community or the wider public. This last point is critical. Regardless of what you as a group feel about the language and imagery used in your protests, you are fully aware that for many in the University community they are experienced as intimidating or appear to be designed to negate the viewpoint of others. Given that you are aware, they should not be acceptable to you either. These are not the standards we should be holding ourselves to in our University community where all voices matter.

We as a University require every one of our students to adhere to the standards we expect of them – this requirement applies to EUJPS as to all others. It includes avoiding (and removing) social media posts (including images, video and audio) about individuals or groups which do not adhere to those standards.

We expect that your protests will continue, and – within these guidelines – those protests will continue to be respected. We cannot continue to allow personal vilification or forms of protest that create a hostile environment for any in our student and staff community. Disciplinary action may be taken against anyone found to be in breach of the Code of Student Conduct.

Please see the latest statement on our website which includes an update on the work that has been taking place around our response to the Israel and Palestine conflict:

[Israel and Palestine: an update on the University's response | The University of Edinburgh](#)

Best wishes,  
Colm

**Professor Colm Harmon**  
**Vice-Principal Students**