



Sent by email

17 May 2021

Dear Professor Freedman,

I am writing on behalf of the University of Essex to apologise for our actions and for the distress caused by the arrangements for speaker invitations to the Holocaust Memorial Week event on the State of Antisemitism Today, scheduled for 30 January 2020.

Akua Reindorf has now concluded the review that she undertook on behalf of the University which included consideration of this matter. Following meetings of the University's Senate and Council today to consider the Report, we will be taking immediate action in relation to each of the recommendations made in the Report.

On behalf of the University, I accept, and apologise for the fact, that:

1. we threatened to infringe your freedom of speech without justification between 9 and 27 January 2020, by failing to issue a formal invitation to you to take part in the Holocaust Memorial Week roundtable debate on 30 January 2020; and
2. we caused you distress.

Please find attached a copy of the Report which has been redacted for you in line with specialist legal expertise.

A suitably redacted version of the Report will be published on the University website tomorrow at 9am (also attached for your information), alongside a statement setting out the University's position and its decision to take action in response to the recommendations contained within the Report. In the interests of complete transparency, the text from this apology to you will also be made public through publication on the University website.

Thank you for your patience while the Review was concluded. I hope that you will be reassured by the actions that we are taking.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Anthony Forster
Vice-Chancellor