

Statement Against the Institutional Surveillance of Students at UK Universities

We, the undersigned, strongly condemn the actions of several prominent universities in the UK, who have hired a private security firm to spy on students and academics voicing their support for Palestine. This blatant attack on democratic rights and academic freedom falls within the larger state crackdown on free speech and dissent. It is even more jarring that these payments coincide with the financial restructuring and staff redundancies that many of these universities claim they were forced to undertake. Universities must return to being cradles of learning and discourse, rather than sanitised spaces for reaping profits.

On 20th April 2026, a joint investigation by Al Jazeera English and Liberty Investigates revealed that a private firm had been paid over £440,000 by UK universities since 2022 to systematically monitor students' social media, produce intelligence briefings, and carry out counter-terror style assessments on activists and even academic speakers. The intelligence firm, Horus, was established in 2006 as a project within the University of Oxford's security team by former Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Whiteley, and boasts personnel with experience in running security, intelligence and counter-intelligence operations all over the world. At least twelve eminent institutions — including the London School of Economics, University of Oxford, University College London, King's College London, Imperial College London, and the University of Bristol, have been revealed in the investigation. Students expressing solidarity with Palestine amid Israel's genocidal assault, have had their posts tracked, catalogued, and reported to university authorities.

The attempt by universities to justify this in the interests of larger campus safety is a disingenuous attempt to shirk responsibility for active repression. This must be viewed in the wider context of intensifying repression against pro-Palestine voices across the UK. As global outrage against Israel's genocide grows, institutions are increasingly moving to discipline, monitor, and silence those who speak out. Academic institutions are a vital component of the financial nexus that propels the British government policy of fuelling Israeli aggression. This investigation further reveals the extent of complicity that underlies higher education in the UK. Universities, which should be spaces of critical thought and social justice, are enforcing political conformity.

We unequivocally reject the repressive actions of the universities involved, which have wielded intelligence measures against their own students and staff. We demand that all universities immediately terminate contracts with intelligence firms, disclose the full extent of monitoring conducted, and guarantee the protection of students' democratic rights and civil liberties. We urge students, academics, student unions and progressive organisations to resist this attack on our freedom to voice dissent.

List of Signatories

Organisations

1. Students' Federation of India - United Kingdom (SFI-UK)
2. Warwick University Left Society
3. Warwick University Green Party Society
4. University of Warwick Pride Society
5. Warwick Action 4 Palestine
6. University of Warwick Student's Union
7. Dundee University Students Association
8. Bristol Palestine Solidarity Campaign
9. Leeds Kehillah
10. University of Warwick Anti-Sexism Society
11. QUB Palestine Assembly
12. Oxford South Asian Ambedkar Forum
13. International Solidarity for Academic Freedom in India (InSAF India)
14. India Labour Solidarity
15. Bristol Leftist Collective
16. Climate Justice Warwick
17. Warwick Anti-Racism Society
18. Hindus for Human Rights UK

Students and Academic Staff

1. Helena Ratcliffe, Warwick Left Society
2. Elliot Briffa, University of Manchester Students' Union City and Community Officer
3. Helena Ratcliffe, Warwick Left Society
4. Elliot Retzepis, Warwick University Green Party Society
5. Ananya Sreekumar, Warwick Students Union: VP Education
6. Lillian Dove, University of Warwick Pride Society
7. Subi Acharya, University of Warwick
8. Eden Morris, Leeds University Union
9. Che Wheeler, University of Warwick
10. Emilio Goodrham, College Student
11. Tom Manders-Trett, Student
12. Jitendra Inturi, Liverpool Guild of Students - Vice President
13. Jenin Chaaban, Warwick Action 4 Palestine
14. Parvathi Menon, SOAS University of London
15. Rachel Miller, Postgraduate Research Officer, University of Manchester Students' Union
16. Tasha Brock, Warwick University Left Society
17. Aadi Nandedkar, University of Warwick Student
18. Amy Syrop, Warwick University Student
19. Edward Swann, Warwick Left Society
20. Ollie Chapman, Warwick SU
21. Ankit Vyas, University of Leeds
22. Harry Harcourt, Warwick University Green Party
23. Onur Sen-Chadun, University of Warwick Green Party

24. Alijah Taha, President (University of Warwick Student's Union)
25. Bee Fox, Warwick Greens
26. Tánaiste Custance, Dundee University Students Association
27. Gillian Messaoud, University of Warwick
28. Jessie Yeung, Bristol SU
29. Imogen Hayes, MAKE Southwest
30. Poppy Arnold, University of Bristol
31. Brona Ruiseal, University of Bristol
32. Jude Timms, University of Warwick Alumni
33. Youssef Ibrahim, Bristol PSC
34. Tyler Wang, University of Warwick
35. Noemi Lendvai-Bainton, University of Bristol
36. Laurence Bryant
37. Kaitlin Wade, University of Bristol
38. Tommy Jarvis, University of West England
39. Juan Francisco, University of Bristol
40. Zoi Toumpakari, University of Bristol
41. Isabel de Salis
42. Charlie Siret, Alumna of Bristol University
43. Imogen Shaw, CALD University of Bristol
44. Sam Williams, Alumnus University of Bristol
45. Ichamati Mousamputri, Newcastle University
46. Hannah Goodwin-Sharman, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol
47. Charlotte Brown, University of Bristol
48. Corinne Squire, University of Bristol
49. Deborah Basco, Leeds Kehillah
50. Dr Roxana Pessoa Cavalcanti, University of Bristol
51. Abhinav, SFI-UK
52. Nupur Paliwal, SFI-UK
53. Rachel Murphy, University of Edinburgh
54. Mia Smith, University of Bristol - UNISON comms officer
55. Kit Opie, Bristol University
56. Anna Di Ronco, University of Bologna
57. Finlay Deane, Vice President-elect at Liverpool Guild of Students
58. Rebecca Hitchman, University of Leeds
59. Henry Preston, University of Bristol
60. Rosie Brooks, UoB - Student administrator
61. David Esteban Rodriguez, University of Bristol
62. Gayathri Payyanadan, SFI-UK
63. Nitu Choudhary, Brunel university London
64. Isaac Bale, University of Bristol
65. khushi nadgauda
66. Somiha Chatterjee, SFI-UK
67. Nikhil Mathew, SFI
68. Danish Zahoor, University of Leeds/ Doctoral Researcher
69. Barry Dolan, University of Bristol staff
70. Priyambada
71. Loes Veldpaus, Newcastle University UCU

72. Aisling O’Beirn, Staff member Ulster
73. Brian Kelly, Queen's University Belfast
74. Lucy Bows, University of Bristol
75. donna brown, rhul
76. Roddy Slorach, Imperial College UCU branch secretary
77. Pádraig Mackel, BTC
78. Sai Shraddha Suresh Viswanathan, Migrant Students Rise
79. George Nicholls, University of Bristol, IT Services
80. Katharine Johnston, UCU University of Lincoln Branch
81. Aparna Vinod, Vice President SFI-UK
82. Francesco Bentivegna, University of Bristol
83. Séagh Kehoe, University of Westminster
84. Isabella Lopez-Scott, University of Warwick Anti-Sexism Society
85. Will Bryson, University of Bristol
86. Eleanor Pandya, QUB Palestine Assembly
87. Esther Kabwika, QUB Palestine Assembly
88. Emma Adams
89. Suzanna Chan, Lecturer, Ulster University
90. Chris Brown, Ulster University
91. Chloe Clarke, Student Wellbeing Service at University of Bristol
92. Bhabani Nayak, University of Glasgow, UK
93. A’alya Mustapha, QUB
94. Mayssoun Sukarieh, KCL
95. Nicola Pratt, University of Warwick
96. Manoj Thekkepattath Parameswaran, University of Leeds
97. Peter Hallward, Professor of Philosophy, CRMEP
98. Jeroen Gunning, King’s College London
99. Jon Hackett, UCU and Brunel University
100. Anupama Ranawana, Durham University
101. Claire Launchbury, Leeds
102. Amala Bonnie, The University of Leeds
103. Ray Campbell, Royal Holloway University of London
104. Pratiti Ghosh, Student
105. Avi Vallat, Student at University of Edinburgh
106. Pranav Mohan, King’s College London
107. Bijaya Biswal, PhD student
108. Julia Mountain, Retired
109. Lucia Pradella, King's College London
110. Thembi Lockett
111. Wojciech Dmochowski, UCU
112. Marianna Fotaki, University of Warwick Business School
113. Rubina Jasani, University of Manchester
114. Uri Horesh, University of St Andrews
115. hazel morfett, UWE
116. Omer Aijazi, University of Manchester
117. James Stewart, Individual. Alumnus of Oxford and Durham Universities
118. Lynda Walker, Belfast & Trades District Trades Council
119. Dr Sam Lawton-Westerland, University of Glasgow

120. Jo Bennett, University of Bristol
121. Daniela Treveri, Oxford Brookes University
122. Mark Hagen, School of Mathematics, University of Bristol
123. Fearghal Mac Bhloscaidh, SMUCB
124. Wassim Naboulsi, University of St Andrews
125. Theresia Hofer, University of Bristol
126. Riya Ray Chaudhury, SOAS, student
127. Nicholas Lawrence, University of Warwick
128. Scott Claessens, University of Bristol
129. Fong
130. Kitty Bertrand, SOAS
131. Chahat Mehrotra, SOAS
132. Michelle Obeid, University of Manchester
133. Bhimraj, Oxford South Asian Ambedkar Forum
134. Ramu
135. Dr Greg Pasco, Birkbeck College / Senior Postdoctoral Researcher
136. Nitin Nair, University of Leeds
137. Song-Chuan Chen, Warwick University
138. Arantxa Gutiérrez, University of Glasgow
139. Remi Joseph-Salisbury, University of Manchester
140. Lotika Singha, International Solidarity for Academic Freedom in India (InSAF India)
141. Annapurna Menon, University of Sheffield
142. Kay Min Soh, University of Westminster, Doctoral Researcher
143. Rashmi Varma, University of Warwick
144. Sara al Mahdi, UCL Human Ecology Research group
145. Thea Cook, University of Bristol
146. Anne Mary Shaju, SOAS
147. Lina Hakim, Kingston University / Senior Lecturer
148. Praveen Kolluguri, India Labour Solidarity
149. Evelyn Strongylakou, University of Warwick
150. Q Manivannan, Lead Candidate, Scottish Green Party
151. W M Butt, PSCS
152. Surinder Guru
153. Catherine Cobham, University of St Andrews
154. Katie Chapple, University of Glasgow
155. Andy Aydin-Aitchison, University of Edinburgh/Senior Lecturer
156. Mara Nicola
157. Paul Yousefi, University of Bristol
158. William Kang Wolter, LSE SJP
159. AD, University of Leeds
160. Holly Stephens, University of Warwick student
161. Amy Syrop, Climate Justice Warwick
162. Ziven Oprava, University of warwick
163. Thejaswini Susobhanan, SFI-UK
164. David Kennedy, CWU
165. William Throp, University of Warwick
166. Nate George, Lecturer, SOAS University of London
167. Catherine Webb, Imperial College London

168. Anthony Capildeo, University of York / Writer in Residence
169. Alycia Pirmohamed, University of Cambridge
170. Jack Underwood, Goldsmiths
171. Suswati Basu, Journalist
172. Vyshakh T, IWA
173. Nicola Perugini, University of Edinburgh
174. Ali Ghiti, BT
175. Dr Sabrin Hasbun, Cardiff Met University
176. Gabriel Roberts, Cardiff Metropolitan University
177. Colin Carr, Dominican Friar
178. Rebecca, Alumni of the University of Aberdeen
179. Andrew Barrie Francis, Retired
180. Joanne Limburg, Teaching Associate
181. Joseph Gerrard, Gateshead College
182. Paolo Ruffino, King's College London
183. Sean Wallis, UCL UCU branch secretary
184. Richard Webb, Lecturer
185. Emma Atkinson, N/A
186. Anupreet Malhi, Leeds SWP
187. Sam Cahill, Leeds Beckett University Student
188. Kat Dixon, The University of Bristol
189. Rhiannon Mendes, Post Graduate Student - SOAS
190. Fuaansha Pimpale, SFI-UK
191. Jane Freeman, Invigilator
192. Susan Talbot, Retired social worker
193. Joanna Cook
194. anna lea aebischer, SOAS
195. Cyma Farah, University of Oxford
196. Sam Lambshead, University of Bristol
197. Chris Cullen, Communist Party of Britain
198. Serena Merrino, University College London
199. Ajay Kumar, Member of Public
200. Abdul Paliwala, University of Warwick
201. Adwitiya Pal, Cardiff University/PhD student
202. Oojal Kour, Journalist
203. Ray Campbell, Royal Holloway University of London
204. Emma Schwarz, Warwick Anti-Sexism Society
205. Jean Merlin von Agris, University of Leeds
206. Saboor Hussain, Warwick Anti-Racism Society
207. Emma Nougier, Student at University of Edinburgh
208. Lambros Fatsis, City St George's
209. dipbuk Panchal, University of Warwick
210. Munirat Ize Yakubu, Student
211. Johnny Austen-Jones, UWE
212. Adarsh Prabhakaran, Thul
213. Jack
214. Rob Challis, University of Bristol
215. Arushi Singhai, Warwick LEFT

- 216. Lucy Adams, Warwick University
- 217. Luke Davies, University of Warwick (Student)
- 218. Dongting Xu, University of Leeds
- 219. Gareth Glynn, Independent
- 220. Mohammed Alruzzi, University of Bristol
- 221. A philogene heron, University of Bristol
- 222. Janice Beckett, Social worker
- 223. James Cussens, University of Bristol
- 224. Rama Hussein, University of Bristol
- 225. Humeira Iqtidar, King College London
- 226. Eleanor Tiplady Higgs, University of Gloucestershire
- 227. Beth Hughes, University of St Andrews
- 228. Rajiv Sinha, Hindus for Human Rights UK