



14 January 2010

Douglas Murray
The Centre for Social Cohesion
Clutha House
10 Storey's Gate
London
SW1P 3AY

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Director of Academic Services
Brendan Casey

Dear Douglas,

Thank you for your letter which has been passed to me for response and action as the responsible Senior Officer of the University.

I can confirm that the University has granted permission for Dr Tammimi to attend the event on January 20th. I should point out that the University has followed the normal procedures and its Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech, and I would like to further explain that here.

The University of Birmingham is an academic community of staff and students. Central to that concept is the safeguarding of the ability of all its members to exercise their right within the law to free speech. We extend that opportunity to visiting speakers. Indeed, student groups commonly hold debates and talks on a variety of issues and often invite external speakers onto campus to hear, and challenge, their views. This is an important part of encouraging vibrant debate and discussion about issues of concern. Equally, we want our university to be an integrated community where all staff and students are safe and secure and free from intimidation, threat or harassment. Pursuant to this, the Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech on campus was approved and adopted by the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee on 24 May 2007. This can be found at:
http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/legislation/docs/COP_Freedom_of_Speech.pdf

This Code of Practice makes it clear that individuals, both from within and those visiting the University, are able to express their views provided: it is clear these are personal views; that such views are within the law; and that individuals do not espouse or advocate violent acts. We take this stance in order to maintain our deserved reputation for academic independence and impartiality. This University is, and will continue to be, an international community, where people of all nationalities and faiths live and work together in a tolerant environment without prejudice or victimization. We will not allow anyone to disrupt our campus and put at risk our community ethos.

I hope this helps to clarify our position.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Casey
Director of Academic Services

