

Das nachstehende Schreiben stützt sich in den zentralen Aussagen und teils wortgleich auf den offenen Brief „Statement against the Boycott of Israeli Academics“, den Anne Rethmann (FU Berlin/Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Daniel Siemens (Newcastle University) und Helmut Walser Smith (Vanderbilt University) dankenswerterweise am 14. Mai 2024 mit Zeichnungsfrist bis zum 25. Mai online gestellt haben. Der Präsident der Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK), Prof. Dr. Walter Rosenthal, hat diesen Appell unmittelbar und vollumfänglich unterstützend unterzeichnet (Ifd. Nr. 2659) und daher auch in seinem Schreiben vom 27. Mai an die Vorsitzenden der israelischen Partnerinstitutionen, Association of Heads of Universities und Committee of Heads of Public Academic Colleges, bekräftigt.

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The following letter is based in its central statements and partly word-for-word on the open letter 'Statement against the Boycott of Israeli Academics', which Anne Rethmann (FU Berlin/Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Daniel Siemens (Newcastle University) and Helmut Walser Smith (Vanderbilt University) kindly posted online on 14 May 2024 with a deadline for signatures until 25 May. The President of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), Prof. Dr. Walter Rosenthal, signed this appeal immediately and in full support (No. 2659) and therefore reaffirmed it in his letter of 27 May to the chairs of the Israeli partner institutions, the Association of Heads of Universities and the Committee of Heads of Public Academic Colleges.

HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, Leipziger Platz 11, 10117 Berlin  
Chairman of the Association of Heads of  
Universities, Israel

Chairman of the Committee of Heads of  
Public Academic Colleges, Israel

27 May 2024

Dear rectors and presidents of the universities and academic colleges in Israel,

on behalf of all HRK member institutions, I would once again like to express the solidarity of German universities with Israeli universities and colleges and all their members in these difficult times.

I am deeply concerned about the increasing attempts to isolate academic institutions and scientists in Israel internationally. Calls for boycotts of this kind are not new, but since the brutal attack by Hamas on 7 October and the subsequent war between Israel and Hamas, these calls have taken on a new dimension. I would like to emphasise that the German Rectors' Conference is against any form of boycott against Israeli academics and Israeli academic institutions. The gradual, often subtle exclusion of Israeli academics contradicts the basic principles of academic cooperation and academic freedom.

We strongly advocate cooperation and the continuation of work with you and call on all academics in Germany to continue or even strengthen cooperation with Israel.

I very much hope that cooperation between our organisations as well as between German and Israeli universities and scientific institutions will be further strengthened in the future.

Sincerely yours



Walter Rosenthal