

Dina Rizk Khoury  
MESA President  
Middle East Studies Association of North America Inc.  
1957 E St NW, Suite 401  
Washington DC 20052  
USA

[secretariat@mesana.org](mailto:secretariat@mesana.org)

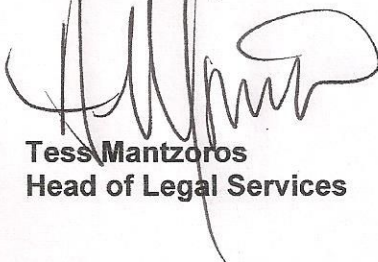
5 May 2020

Dear Professor Khoury

In response to your letter to Professor Stuart Corbridge, Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University, of 5 March 2020, your statement that the University of Durham's decision to terminate the provision of administrative services to BRISMES was due to BRISMES' decision "...to support the resolution for academic boycott of Israel" is factually incorrect. The University of Durham's decision to terminate the provision of administrative services was due to a breakdown of personal relationships between the University employee who provided the administrative/secretarial support to BRISMES and the BRISMES officers.

The University of Durham takes no position on its own individual academic staff member's freedom of speech or their legal right to academic freedom as established under English law, and in particular the Education Reform Act, let alone BRISMES' rights as a legal entity, or those of individual BRISMES members. The University of Durham recognises that its own academic staff's right to thought, conscience, religion, opinion, expression, association, and assembly may touch upon sensitive or controversial issues and will, therefore, as a higher educational institution defend its staff member's right to exercise those rights so long as they are exercised within the parameters of the law.

Yours sincerely



**Tess Mantzoros**  
Head of Legal Services

cc: Vice-Chancellor  
University Secretary