

SOAS Students' Union External Speaker Briefing

Welcome, and thank you for agreeing to speak to our students at a SOAS Students' Union event.

A number of our student societies choose to fulfil their objectives by inviting in speakers to broaden the scope of discussion and debate at events and we are grateful to those who volunteer their time to contribute to the extra-curricular development of our students.

SOAS Students' Union, has a long tradition of welcoming high profile speakers from all over the world, from every part of the political, social and religious spectrum. SOAS Students' Union is committed to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge and ideas through being a leading institute for debate. This can only be conducted effectively in an atmosphere of open enquiry, mutual tolerance and intellectual freedom.

Freedom of expression may not be exercised if in so doing it breaks the law or breaches the rights of others, such as if its expression is unlawfully discriminatory or threatens others' safety or freedom of expression. Membership of the School and permission to use its premises is predicated upon acceptance of these principles.

The School and Students' Union will not condone any actions by any individual or group that is seeking to intimidate or prevent a School or Student's Union event from going ahead which complies with this Code of Practice.

In allowing speakers to attend events at SOAS we approve them based on the understanding that they act within the law and the regulations set by the School.

The Principal Organiser has a duty of care to speakers and the attendees of events so that all may be able to enter, deliver speeches, listen to speeches and/or participate in events safely without threat to public order. To facilitate this we ask all external speakers to follow any requests from the Principal Organiser if they are asked to stop speaking for safety or other reasons. Principal Organisers have agreed the area and topic of conversation with the Students' Union in advance and therefore we would also ask that speakers stay on the topic agreed.

Please refer to the School's Code Of Practice for Bookings for further information
<https://www.soas.ac.uk/admin/governance/policies/file37337.pdf>