(1) You cite specific incidents involving staff, student unions, and posters glorifying terrorism. How did university leadership respond to these concerns?

(a) Do current university policies offer any real protection against such glorification of terrorism, including calls for 'intifada'?

AUJS has engaged extensively with university administrations following multiple incidents across campuses involving rhetoric, symbolism, or activity that glorifies terrorism or creates a threatening environment for Jewish students. Based on these interactions and documented cases, our view is that current university policies do not offer sufficient protection against the glorification of terrorism or antisemitic conduct. While universities may have general codes of conduct and equity policies, their practical enforcement has often been inconsistent, reactive, and inadequate in addressing the impact of such conduct on students.

We refer the Committee to the following incidents at the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Sydney as examples:

The University of Technology Sydney

May 2024:
A study room located adjacent to a designated safe space for Jewish students on campus was defaced with swastikas and imagery appearing to glorify terrorism.

The swastika is a well-recognised symbol of Nazi ideology and the genocide of six million Jews during the Holocaust. Its presence in a university space is not only historically and politically charged but represents a direct threat to the safety and dignity of Jewish students. The placement of these symbols near a space specifically intended to provide security and community for Jewish students was particularly disturbing. It sent a clear message of exclusion and intimidation, undermining the very purpose of that space and heightening students' sense of vulnerability on campus.

This incident was promptly reported to university administration. We were advised that security staff had reviewed CCTV footage covering a two-week period but had found no suspicious activity. The university also informed us that it had directed security to increase patrols and conduct more regular inspections of campus facilities. However, no disciplinary action was taken, and the university did not publicly condemn the incident.

In November, AUJS leaders asked whether the matter had been referred to police, noting that the public display of Nazi symbols constitutes a criminal offence under both New South Wales and Commonwealth law. The university responded that it had not reported the matter. Subsequent follow-up confirmed that no police referral was ever made.

This response is deeply inadequate. By failing to refer the incident to police and take visible disciplinary or procedural action, the university signalled that such conduct will not be treated with the seriousness it deserves. This undermines Jewish students' trust in the institution's ability, and willingness, to protect their safety and uphold an inclusive campus environment. Universities have a duty of care to ensure that all students can participate in campus life free from hate and harassment. In this case, that duty was not met. **(See Annexure 1)**

July 2024:
A café operating on University of Technology Sydney (UTS) property under a lease agreement that, to our understanding, requires compliance with UTS Codes of Conduct, posted an image on its public Instagram account depicting Ismail Haniyeh standing in front of a Hamas flag.

Ismail Haniyeh was the leader of the Hamas Political Bureau from 2017 until his assassination in 2024. Hamas is listed as a terrorist organisation under Australian law.[1] It is responsible for numerous acts of violence targeting civilians, including the October 7 attacks that resulted in the largest loss of Jewish life in a single day since the Holocaust. For Jewish students, the glorification of Haniyeh and the Hamas leadership represents not only the endorsement of terrorism but also the celebration of antisemitic violence. It signals that those responsible for targeted attacks on Jews are being honoured, and that this can happen in a public-facing campus-affiliated business without consequence.

The caption accompanying the post read: *"The martyrdom of the head of the political bureau of the H**mas movement, the leader Ismail Haniyeh, in a treacherous Zionist bombing that targeted his residence in Tehran." The deliberate glorification of a terrorist figure, described here as a "martyr", and the framing of his death as the result of "Zionist" aggression is deeply offensive to Jewish students. It creates an environment in which the targeting of Jewish identity, under the guise of political discourse, is normalised.

This was not the first time concerns had been raised about this café's conduct. In March 2024, following earlier complaints from students about similar social media content, the university's only response was to request that the café remove "UTS" from its Instagram handle, a measure that addressed branding but did nothing to resolve the underlying issue.

This response is clearly inadequate. The university has a duty to ensure that all campus spaces, including those run by third parties, are safe, inclusive, and free from

[1] https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/what-australia-is-doing/terrorist-organisations/listed-terrorist-organisations/hamas

hate and harassment. By allowing a café operating on its property to openly glorify a designated terrorist leader, the university has failed to meet that obligation.

The failure to take further disciplinary or contractual action, or to publicly affirm that such content is unacceptable, sends a message to Jewish students that their safety and wellbeing are not a priority. It also undermines confidence in the university's stated commitments to diversity, inclusion, and student welfare. If the university enforces its codes of conduct selectively it risks creating a double standard that permits exclusion and intimidation.

The university must do more than request superficial changes. It must ensure that all campus-affiliated entities comply with basic standards of conduct, and that antisemitism, in any form, is addressed with the seriousness it requires. **(See Annexure 2)**

March 2025:
On 25 March 2025, a student-led protest was held on the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) campus involving several student and staff groups, including the UTS Students' Association, the Palestine Society, Solidarity UTS, the National Tertiary Education Union for Palestine, and UTS Staff for Palestine.

Slogans chanted during the protest included "Resistance is justified when Palestine is occupied" and "There is only one solution — intifada, revolution." Posters displayed statements such as "We don't want two states, we want all of '48" and "Reject UA's antisemitism definition."

These slogans and messages are offensive and deeply distressing to Jewish students. The phrase "We want all of '48" refers to the full dismantling of the State of Israel, established in 1948, and the replacement of the Jewish homeland with another political entity. Calls for "one solution" and "all of '48" are not advocating for peaceful coexistence or a two-state solution, they are explicitly calling for the destruction of the world's only Jewish state.

When protesters chant these messages on campus, it is experienced by many Jewish students as a call for genocide. Whilst the chant "intifada" may be interpreted by some as a generic term for resistance, but in the context of the Israel–Palestine conflict, it clearly references the First and Second Intifadas, periods of extreme violence. The Second Intifada, in particular, involved mass suicide bombings and terror attacks in which around 1,000 Israelis, mostly civilians, were murdered and thousands more were injured. Demands that Israel be destroyed, particularly in a university setting that should be committed to inclusion and safety, are divisive.

The matter was reported to both campus security and senior leadership shortly after the protest. Nearly two weeks later, on 7 April 2025, a statement titled "Freedom to

protest is both a right and a responsibility" was linked in a student newsletter.[2] At that time, AUJS was informed that the matter was under investigation. However, as of the date of this submission, no formal update has been provided to the students who raised the complaint.

The university's response has been wholly inadequate. The public statement offered no specific condemnation of the slogans or messaging used during the protest, nor any indication that the university recognises their impact on Jewish students. Framing the event solely through the lens of "freedom to protest" without addressing the content and consequences of that protest erases the serious harm caused to an already marginalised student group.

This response fails to meet the university's duty of care. Jewish students were subjected to chants and signage that glorified violence, denied their people's right to self-determination, and promoted messages widely understood as antisemitic.

The University of Sydney

February 2024:
An event was held on campus titled 'Who are Hamas'. The promotional materials included imagery associated with the October 7 attacks. The event sought to rationalise and legitimise Hamas, a recognised terrorist organisation. The university administration was informed prior to the event, but the Vice Chancellor chose not to intervene on the grounds of freedom of expression. During this event, at multiple points, support was expressed for Hamas, its methodology, and the October 7th attacks. **(See Annexure 3)**

August 2024:
At a Student General Meeting held on 8 August 2024, a motion to condemn Hamas and its attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 was defeated. Instead, the meeting passed motions that expressed support for Hamas and its so-called "armed resistance" despite the fact that Hamas is listed as a terrorist organisation under Australian law and was responsible for the murder, torture, rape, and abduction of civilians during the October 7 attacks.

This meeting was extremely distressing for Jewish students. Not only did it fail to acknowledge the trauma and grief experienced by the Jewish community in the wake of October 7, but it actively endorsed the group responsible for that violence. Jewish students who attended were left feeling unsafe, unwelcome, and vilified for opposing

[2] University of Technology Sydney statement regarding protest, 7 April 2025: Freedom to protest is both a right and a responsibility.

terrorism and defending the right of civilians, including family and friends, to live without fear.

The normalisation of such rhetoric within an official student forum sent a clear signal: that Jewish students' pain could be dismissed, and that their safety, identity, and presence on campus were not only unprotected but openly challenged. For many, it marked a breaking point, pushing them further out of full participation in student life, campus politics, and the broader university community.

Rather than fostering dialogue or inclusion, the meeting created an environment where Jewish students were silenced and sidelined, simply for asserting their right to be heard and to exist in a space without fear of targeted hate.

Following the meeting, the University administration issued a public statement asserting that "we do not tolerate any pro-terrorist statements or commentary, including support for Hamas."[3]

November 2024:
Posters advocating for the release of 24 Palestinian prisoners, many identified as members of terrorist organisations, were displayed at the University of Sydney. These posters included the following individuals, among other identified members of terrorist organisations:

- Zakaria Zubeidi: Former Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades chief, linked to attacks such as the 2002 Beit She'an attack, killing six, and a 2004 Tel Aviv bombing that killed one and injured over 30.
- Yaqoub Qadri: Senior Hamas member; orchestrated the 2003 Jerusalem bus bombing, killing 23, including children; involved in planning multiple suicide bombings.
- Ibrahim Hamed: Hamas commander; responsible for the 2002 Hebrew University bombing, killing nine; organised numerous deadly attacks.
- Mohammed Deif: Leader of Hamas's military wing, responsible for orchestrating numerous attacks on Israeli civilians.

Once notified, the university promptly removed the posters. Protective Services advised that they were unable to determine who was responsible, as the area where the posters were placed was not captured on camera. The university has since stated that it is reviewing and upgrading CCTV coverage across campus and will consider this location and noticeboard areas as part of that review.

The university also confirmed that it contacted Inner West Police in relation to the incident. While these steps are noted, we are not aware of any meaningful follow-up,

[3] University of Sydney statement regarding SRC meeting', 8 August 2024: University of Sydney statement regarding SRC meeting - The University of Sydney.

disciplinary action, or outcomes from the investigation to date. For affected students, the lack of visible consequences for the perpetrators contributes to an ongoing sense that antisemitic acts on campus are neither taken seriously nor met with appropriate institutional response.

Conclusion:

Across these examples, university responses were largely limited to public statements or superficial administrative steps, with little evidence of disciplinary action, referral to law enforcement, or any meaningful policy review. In some cases, such as the UTS vandalism incident, legally significant conduct, including the use of Nazi symbols, went unreported. At both universities, the invocation of “freedom of expression” was frequently used to justify inaction, even in cases where the content glorified organisations proscribed under Australian law as terrorist groups.

These examples suggest that university policies, in their current form, are inadequate in responding to, deterring, or addressing the glorification of terrorism or conduct that causes serious harm to the safety and wellbeing of Jewish students.

Most significantly, at no point did any of the universities take proactive steps to protect Jewish students as a minority group. Jewish students have been left to manage fear, exclusion, and harassment without institutional support or visible reassurance of their right to safety and inclusion on campus.

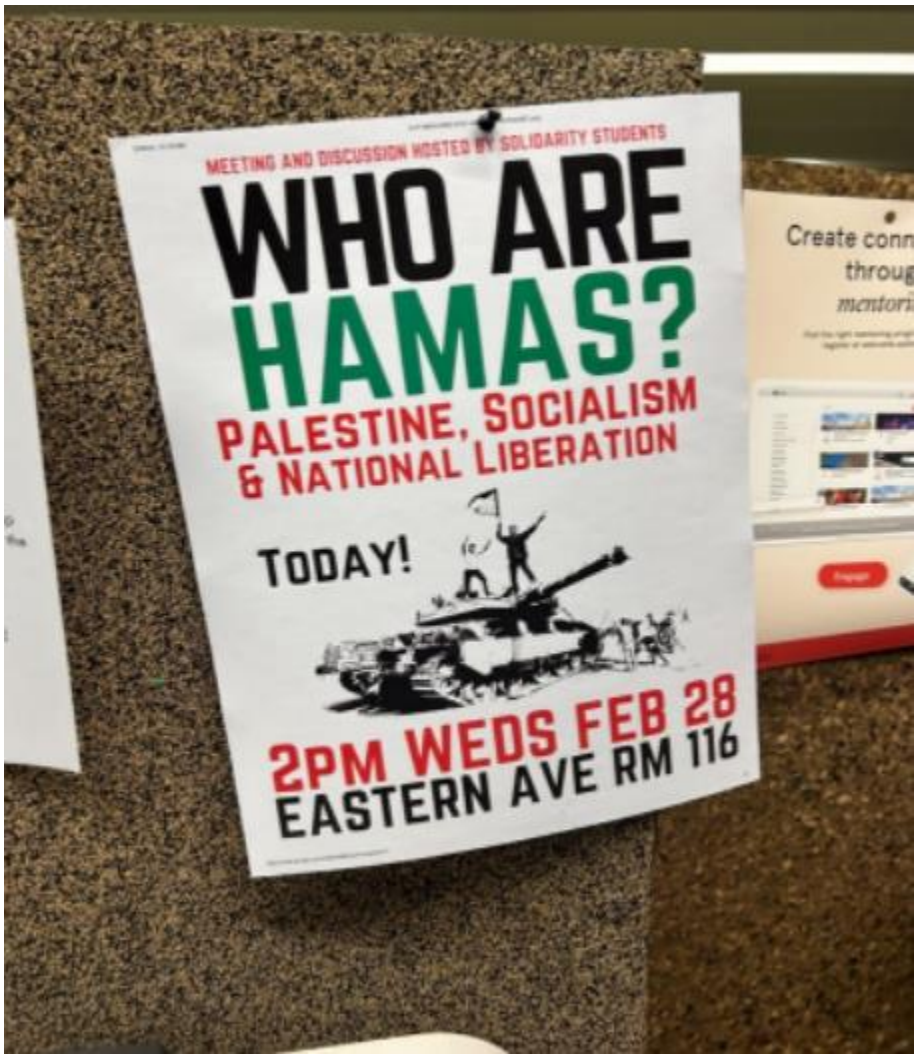
This failure reflects a broader systemic issue: a reluctance to recognise antisemitism in its contemporary forms, and a lack of willingness to apply institutional protections equally.

Annexure 1

Annexure 2


2:32
92
Reels
cornerstonecafeultimo
Follow
The martyrdom of the head of the political bureau of the Ha*mas movement, the leader Ismail Haniyeh, in a treacherous Zionist bombing that targeted his residence in Tehran.
He lost 60 members of his family in the last 10 months killed by the Zionist terrorists in Gaza
It was his turn to join them.
20
3

Annexure 3


MEETING AND DISCUSSION HOSTED BY SOLIDARITY STUDENTS
WHO ARE
HAMAS?
PALESTINE, SOCIALISM
& NATIONAL LIBERATION
TODAY!
2PM WEDS FEB 28
EASTERN AVE RM 116