

**Westminster Higher Education Forum keynote seminar:
Next steps for freedom of speech in UK higher education**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 23rd April 2024

*****Taking Place Online*****



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Griffiths
- 9.05 **Freedom of speech on university campuses - implications of the Freedom of Speech Act 2023 for HEIs students and staff**
Smita Jamdar, Partner and Head of Education, Shakespeare Martineau
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Freedom of debate in universities and the practical impact of legislation**
Professor Adam Habib, Director, School of Oriental and African Studies
- 9.35 **Changes in the landscape for freedom of speech in higher education**
Definitions of new duties and compliance with statutory requirements | Balancing competing responsibilities | Processes for determining legitimate complaints
Professor Bobby Duffy, Director, The Policy Institute; and Professor, Public Policy, King's College London
Dr Bryn Harris, Chief Legal Counsel, Free Speech Union
Dr Alex Bols, Deputy Chief Executive, GuildHE
Lily Byrne, President, Sheffield Students' Union
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Griffiths
- 10.30 Break
- 10.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum
- 10.45 **Free speech complaints in UK universities - developing systems for addressing concerns**
Charlotte Corrish, Head of Public Policy, Office of the Independent Adjudicator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Campus conduct and culture**
Examining the nature and drivers of expression on campus | Trends in student views and culture | The future regulation of student unions | Strategies for addressing harassment and discrimination | Considering what makes an optimal learning and debating environment
Josh Freeman, Policy Manager, Higher Education Policy Institute
Dr Sammy Li, Assistant Director of Student Affairs, University of Birmingham
Laura Moss, Partner, Charities and Social Enterprise, Wrigleys Solicitors
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Academic freedom, teaching and research**
Curricular design and reading lists | Considering possible implications for quality assurance | Impact on academic enquiry and debate
Professor Graham Gee, Director of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sheffield
Peter McColl, Director, Centre for Responsible Debate
Dr Kelli Rudolph, Senior Lecturer, Classics and Philosophy, University of Kent; and Member, Council for the Defence of British Universities
Dr Natalie Alkiviadou, Senior Research Fellow, Future of Free Speech, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, USA
James Murray, Legal Director, Doyle Clayton Solicitors
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **Regulation and freedom of expression in higher education going forward**
Jennifer Cannon, Head of Fostering Good Relations Policy, Equality and Human Rights Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum