Edinburgh University Students’ Association condemns anti-Semitism

What will we do?
1. Edinburgh University Students' Association will reaffirm its commitment to fighting antisemitism and will condemn it in all its forms.
2. The Students’ Association will adopt the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) Working Definition on antisemitism (see below) as a document integral to identifying and fighting antisemitism.

What is the background to this?
1. 2016 has seen a rise in antisemitic incidents throughout the United Kingdom with CST noting a 11% rise in antisemitic attacks between January-June 2016.
2. In March 2016, antisemitic flyers were posted throughout the university, most notably in Kings Buildings, denying the Holocaust and calling it “The Greatest Swindle of All Time”.
3. In September 2016, more flyers were found in Edinburgh which incited antisemitic stereotypes and hatred.
4. In the past year, students, including elected Students’ Association representatives and NUS Delegates, have taken part in antisemitic behaviour.

What beliefs motivate the actions you propose?
1. At a time of rising antisemitism, Jewish students need the support and backing of their Student Association.
2. Jewish students have the right to define their own oppression.
3. Jewish students do not currently feel that the University of Edinburgh or the Student Association provides a safe space for them.
4. Several Jewish students have terminated their studies at the University of Edinburgh due to an unwelcoming environment.
5. The EUMC working definition of antisemitism is universally accepted as a guideline on what antisemitism is by the Jewish community and the international political community.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures

APPENDIX TO PAPER C:
EUMC WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

The purpose of this document is to provide a practical guide for identifying incidents, collecting data, and supporting the implementation and enforcement of legislation dealing with antisemitism.

Working definition: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

In addition, such manifestations could also target the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
Examples of the ways in which antisemitism manifests itself with regard to the State of Israel taking into account the overall context could include:

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.

**Antisemitic acts are criminal** when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

**Criminal acts are antisemitic** when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

**Antisemitic discrimination** is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.