

Motion to create a Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom for EASA

Submitted to EASA's General Assembly by:

Yazid Ben Hounet, Alice von Bieberstein, Julie Billaud, Rebecca Bryant, Manuela Ciotti, Jane Cowan, Antonio De Lauri, Sarah Green, Shahram Khosravi, Prem Kumar Rajaram, Annelies Moors, Agathe Mora, Till Mostowlansky, Pedro Silva Rocha Lima, Umut Yildirim, Filippo Zerilli

18 December 2023

The above-signed call upon the General Assembly to adopt the following motion.

The European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) notes the following:

1. According to its Constitution, EASA's Objects are "to promote education and research in social anthropology by improving understanding of world societies and encouraging professional communication and cooperation between anthropologists, especially in Europe" (6). And in particular, "To promote, carry out or encourage research and education and training" (7.2), "To promote best practice among social anthropologists" (7.3), and "To promote professional interaction and dialogue" (7.4).
2. In light of the growing restrictions on academic freedom in Europe and within European Universities and the reprisals and/or attacks academics, students and academic collectives face for publicly sharing their anthropological analysis of colonialism and structural violence.
3. In light of the situation of Palestinian and Israeli academics and students in Europe and the Middle East who speak up against state violence and censorship, and suffer punitive consequences for their actions.

EASA therefore resolves as follows:

1. To create a Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom, with the following Terms of References:

- The Working Group (WG) will be active for a minimum of one year from the start of its activity, with the possibility of extending its mandate in agreement with the Executive Committee and/or at the request of a minimum of twenty EASA members.
- The mandate of the WG is to act as an advisory body to EASA's Executive Committee and to:
 1. Examine the growing restrictions on academic freedom in Europe and within European universities.
 2. Formulate suggestions to address the restrictions on academic freedom in Europe and within European universities.
 3. Examine cases of academics, students and academic collectives who face reprisals and/or attacks for publicly sharing their anthropological analysis of colonialism and structural violence.
 4. Propose a mechanism through which such cases can be addressed by EASA.
 5. Suggest ways to address the situation of Palestinian and Israeli academics and students in Europe and the Middle East who speak up against state violence and censorship, and suffer punitive consequences for their actions.
 6. Draft recommendations in response to these issues. The recommendations will be presented and discussed at EASA's AGM in Barcelona in July 2024.
- The WG will have a minimum of three and a maximum of four members. The WG members will be elected by the membership following voluntary candidacy.
- The WG will include at least one appointed member of the Executive Committee to function as liaison.
- Members' candidacy must be supported by demonstrated expertise in human rights and/or demonstrated commitment to academic freedom.