

**AFAF**

**ACADEMICS FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

# STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom – the responsibility to speak your mind and challenge conventional wisdom – defines the university and stands as a model for open debate in wider society.

In today's political climate it is harder than ever for academics to defend open debate.

Academics for Academic Freedom (AFAF) is a campaign for all academics who want to make a public statement in favour of unimpeded enquiry and expression. That statement is set out here:

**'WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING TWO PRINCIPLES TO BE THE FOUNDATION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM:**

- (1) THAT ACADEMICS, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM, HAVE UNRESTRICTED LIBERTY TO QUESTION AND TEST RECEIVED WISDOM AND TO PUT FORWARD CONTROVERSIAL AND UNPOPULAR OPINIONS, WHETHER OR NOT THESE ARE DEEMED OFFENSIVE, AND**
- (2) THAT ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE NO RIGHT TO CURB THE EXERCISE OF THIS FREEDOM BY MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFF, OR TO USE IT AS GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION OR DISMISSAL.'**

To sign the statement, go to the AFAF web site: [www.afaf.org.uk](http://www.afaf.org.uk)