

## Academy statement on academic boycotts

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The Academy of Medical Sciences is strongly against academic boycotts based on nationality, race, sex, language, religion or opinion. The Academy supports global collaborations and believes the neutrality of scholarly endeavour should transcend politics.

The Academy Council supports the statement by the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRNASS), which was published in the scientific journal 'Nature' on 13 June 2002.

The text of the statement is:

'The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies was created to address grave issues of science and human rights throughout the world. It aims to put into practice the professional duty of scientists and scholars to assist those colleagues whose human rights have been - or are threatened to be - infringed and to promote and protect the independence of academies and scholarly societies worldwide. The basis of the network's activities is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

'The network seeks to promote the free exchange of ideas and opinions among scientists and scholars in all countries and, thereby, to stimulate the development of collaborative educational, research and human-rights endeavours within academies and the institutions with which they are affiliated.

'Moratoria on scientific exchanges based on nationality, race, sex, language, religion, opinion and similar factors thwart the networks goals. They would deny our colleagues their rights to freedom of opinion and expression; interfere with their ability to exercise their bona fide academic freedoms; inhibit the free circulation of scientists and scientific ideas; and impose unjust punishment. They would also be an impediment to the instrumental role played by scientists and scholars in the promotion of peace and human rights.'

For further information contact

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