

Dear members of the Student Union,

We, the board of directors of the KABK, would like to inform you about the insights we have gained from all the conversations within our community and the actions we will take as a result of this process.

Firstly, we express our respect and appreciation for the role the student union played in fostering the dialogue within the institution and urging to acknowledge its position and to take responsibility for protecting human rights. Through the petition, the General Assembly, and meetings within various layers of our organization, we have started to align a community-wide opinion that guides us in positioning our organization regarding our partners, ties, and affiliations worldwide now and in the future.

It is the consensus of our community that our policies and actions, along with those of our partners, should actively support and uphold universal humanitarian rights at all times. Remaining silent towards possible breaches of human rights could be seen as an indirect form of support for those who overstep their rights. As a faculty that strongly believes in the values of raising one's voice and expressing personal opinions and beliefs, we feel an additional responsibility to protect universal access to education for everyone and the position of artists and designers as proponents of free thought and free speech, within the boundaries of the law. As a result of this, we choose to discontinue to partner with an institution that is not opposing a government under serious investigation for breaching human rights and committing crimes against humanity or is supporting this.

From the process leading up to this position, we have seen how challenging it is to achieve internal alignment, allow different opinions to exist, create a space for all voices to be heard, and protect nuance. As we still grapple with these worldwide issues, we will continue to work on them and allow for a space in which the conversation can develop.

We understand that we also have a role to play in the transformation taking place in our society, and we embrace the responsibility that comes with this understanding as we move forward in a manner that upholds inclusiveness, multiple voices, and nuance, we recognize the role we can play.

With the support of you, the Student Union, we want to take the following initial actions:

1. KABK community wide sessions will be organized on values and positions around ethical questions, based on a shared and aligned organization and policy.
2. From these sessions, our institution will define a policy that reflects our moral and ethical compass towards our affiliates and partners national and worldwide.
3. We will suspend our exchange partnership with Bezalel University, for the reasons given above and will inform them about that. The new policy will be our guidance in evaluating if we can re-connect with them in the future.
4. We support free and oppositional (artistic) voices worldwide, therefore we remain open to individual students studying with us, as well as to teachers from spaces of conflict.
5. A fund for financial support of two students from conflict regions will be set-up (humanitarian scholarship) and put into action in the next academic year (2024-2025).
6. Fundraising efforts for student organizations in humanitarian crisis situations/areas will be allowed within the KABK.
7. Once our policy is defined, we will look into new partnerships suggested by the student union.
8. We will actively protect, respect, and involve those who oppose our opinion as any standpoint is allowed in the gradient of our collective position.

We hope to continue the conversation with you and the rest of the KABK and uphold the open dialogue that we have managed to foster so far. As it is of great value to the collective moral and ethical development of our school.

Warm regards,  
Academy Interim Directorate

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