

20 January 2023

To all students, faculty, and employees,

I do not normally express my opinion and thoughts on political issues. Nonetheless, when important values are at stake it is necessary to take a stand and speak out, particularly regarding significant issues of equality, equal educational opportunities, humanism, and upholding democracy.

In recent days we have witnessed declarations supporting the right to discriminate against various groups when providing services. This potential discrimination is presented as one that is justified by the need to understand and respect the faith and beliefs of service providers.

As an institution that appreciates the diversity of Israeli society, this type of discrimination is inconceivable. At our College students and faculty encompass Arabs and Jews, religious and secular, new immigrants and veteran residents, women and men, who all learn and teach together. On behalf of the College's senior management team, and myself, I wish to declare unequivocally that we shall maintain the pluralistic character of the College at any price. All candidates who meet the academic terms of admission shall be accepted, irrespective of faith, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.

The College shall continue to do all in its power to preserve the delicate fabric of Israeli society, as reflected in the complexity of those who enter its gates. We shall make every effort to sustain our inclusive attitude and to guarantee equal treatment for all.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Ehud Kokia, President