

Re: {Kurdish Studies Network} A Letter by Women in Kurdish Studies

1 message

Pinar Dinc <dinch2016@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 30, 2020 at 10:39 AM

Reply-To: kurdishstudiesnetwork@googlegroups.com

To: kurdishstudiesnetwork@googlegroups.com

Dear All,

Thank you for carrying this discussion forwards with comments and questions. Although I have not been involved in the process of writing or decision making for this statement, I think I can say a few words about potential motivations.

As I am sure some of you already know, I myself have been subjected to harassment, which I have reported to my university and got a decision. Unfortunately, even a formal written warning was not enough to stop him. Eventually, after almost 2.5 years of being stalked, I shared my experience without naming the perpetrator on Twitter and invited every other woman in academia going through harassment to speak up.

Long story short, his name was exposed by other people who were apparently aware of his actions not only towards me but other people. It wasn't an easy process. I got targeted not only by the perpetrator's ugly statement but also other people who uttered lies and slanders about me, my life, and my career. I guess this is a very recent and solid example of what Thomas has been saying.

Coming to the question about why an anonymous letter: Right after my statement, two more women spoke up about harassment and physical violence in academia. In response to this, several networks came together and wrote a statement, opened it to signatures where there are currently 488 signatures.

Sounds like a success, but they faced several other problems. These texts, which are to strengthen victims, are often also signed by perpetrators, or those who explicitly or implicitly support perpetrators. There is always the risk of ending up with a statement signed by so many perpetrators we know and heard about, which causes more damage to the women who remain silent for various reasons. I am not saying this because I necessarily agree with all the discussions around it, but learning from my experience, I can say that it is not easy to exclude perpetrator (men and women) from the signatories lists.

Perhaps a potential way to move forward is to have a mini-network within the KSN, where women and LGBTI+ scholars discuss this among themselves?

Apologies for the long email, but I thought I should share my experiences with these processes and hopefully provide another perspective. Like Thomas already said, there are so many people some of whose names we know, secretly. I must say that it haunts me that I cannot cut them out totally, since they are usually not exposed (yet).

With warm wishes and solidarity,

Pinar Dinc.

Controversies [\[edit \]](#)

Based on social media discussions, the *Daily Sabah* reported about Özkirimli's involvement in an alleged [sexual harassment](#). Particularly, it is reported that Özkirimli, for at least two years, systematically harassed Pınar Dinç, a [postdoctoral researcher](#) at [Sweden's Lund University Center for Middle Eastern Studies](#).^[5] Özkirimli, in his post, has denied all allegations and noted that legal proceedings have been started in Sweden in relation to the allegations.^[6]



Daphne Halikiopoulou <d.halikiopoulou@reading.ac.uk>

Today, 9:31 AM

Umut Özkirimli ✉

🔄 Reply all | ▾

You forwarded this message on 10/30/2018 9:44 AM

Dear Umut,

I am just writing to let you know that a few weeks ago I was sent a copy of the decision in Swedish.

All my best,

Daphne

Dr Daphne Halikiopoulou
Associate Professor in Comparative Politics
Department of Politics and IR
University of Reading
Room EM 310
Whiteknights, PO Box 218, Reading, RG6 6AA

☺ ☺



Hi @IBEI I wanted to inform you that a member of the institute called U has responsibility for a case of harassment. He has insisted on harassing his colleague at Lund University for almost 3 years. And she has filed a harassment complaint with her faculty.



IBEI

1 message



Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 8:09 PM

Dear Umut,

During the recent days we have observed in social media and digital press some strong disputes regarding your personal and academic behavior when you were affiliated as an associated professor at Lund University, during the years 2017 and 2018. In some cases, references to IBEI as one of your current employers were made, eventually claiming for a reaction on our side.

We are not in the place to make any assessment regarding this situation, but are worried about potential implications for our institution. In this sense, we would like to have an interview with you in the coming days, either presential at IBEI headquarters or by Zoom. We want to know your views about this situation, how do you plan to address it, and why you didn't inform us about this case previously.

Best wishes,



Subject: information about affiliated researcher

Date: 1 October 2018 at 15:46:33 CEST

To: <s.glendinning@lse.ac.uk>, <k.featherstone@lse.ac.uk>

Cc: <edi@lse.ac.uk>, <v.monastiriotis@lse.ac.uk>, <i.s.chan@lse.ac.uk>, <Director@lse.ac.uk>

Dear Prof. Glendinning and Prof. Featherstone,

I am writing this email to inform you about Dr. Umut Ozkirimli, who is currently affiliated at the LSEE (Research on South-East Europe) within the European Institute at the London School of Economics. As an LSE alumni (PhD degree in Political Science from the Department of Government in 2017), I see it as my civic-duty and professional responsibility to report that Dr. Ozkirimli has recently gone through an investigation on harassment/sexual harassment by Lund University where he works as a lecturer. The decision letter, which was sent to Dr. Ozkirimli in June 2018, states that he “had threatened a colleague, harassed a colleague and exposed a student to an offensive treatment”. The decision letter also states that Dr. Ozkirimli “also acted in violation of the Prohibition in the Discrimination Act by indirectly threatening both student and employee with reprisals for the events”.

I am cc'ing Dr. Monastiriotis and Ms. Chan from the EDI office so that they are informed as well.

As an alumni and colleague, I would appreciate an acknowledgment of this email.

Kind Regards,

Dr. Pinar Dinc

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow,

Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University

The content of this email is confidential and intended for the recipient specified in message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without a written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion, so that we can ensure such a mistake does not occur in the future.

Andréa Björk

Från: Hunt,JE <J.E.Hunt@lse.ac.uk>
Skickat: den 24 oktober 2018 10:47
Till: Pinar Dinc
Ämne: RE: information about affiliated researcher

Flagga: Har meddelandeflagga

Dear Pinar,

Thank you for your email. I am writing to you in my capacity as HR Business Partner for the European Institute assisting Professor Glendinning which his investigations in the matters raised in your email of 1 October 2018. You refer below to having formal documents relating to the matters you have outlined. If you do have further information and/or documentation which would assist Professor Glendinning's in better understanding and investigating the concerns outlined it would be helpful for him to see these. I do appreciate however, that given the confidentiality surrounding such matters, that it may not be possible for you to share this.

I also wondered whether there was someone I could speak to at Lund University, preferably someone in your Human Resources or legal team who may have knowledge of the matters raised. If you are able to advise of the appropriate contact that would be helpful.

We take allegations of this nature very seriously and want to reassure you that we will take reasonable steps to investigate these issues with appropriate action being taken where necessary. However, with regards to sharing further information at a later date with you, I hope you can understand that specific steps taken would need to remain confidential to the individuals concerned.

Many thanks
Jo

Joanne Hunt | HR Partner
HR Partnering Team
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday

Location: 5th Floor, Lionel Robbins Building | 10 Portugal Street | London | WC2A 2HD
Postal Address: Houghton Street | London | WC2A 2AE
Tel: 020 7955 7072 | j.e.hunt@lse.ac.uk

From: Pinar Dinc [<mailto:pinar.dinc@cme.lu.se>]
Sent: 11 October 2018 14:08
To: Glendinning,S
Cc: Featherstone,K; Monastiriotis,V; Hunt,JE
Subject: Re: information about affiliated researcher

Dear Prof. Glendinning,

Many thanks for your kind response. Please feel free to contact me may you need any formal documents regarding this. I take harassment in academia very seriously, both as a victim and an academic, so I would, if I may, I would also appreciate any further information on what you decide if this can be shared at a later date.

Kind Regards,

Andréa Björk

Från: Glendinning,S <S.Glendinning@lse.ac.uk>
Skickat: den 11 oktober 2018 13:21
Till: Pinar Dinc; Featherstone,K
Kopia: Monastiriotis,V; Hunt,JE
Ämne: RE: information about affiliated researcher

Flagga: Har meddelandeflagga

Dear Pinar Dinc,

Many thanks for your email. We will now take this forward in line with our internal processes.

Kind regards,

Simon Glendinning
Head of European Institute

From: Pinar Dinc [mailto:pinar.dinc@cme.lu.se]
Sent: 01 October 2018 14:47
To: Glendinning,S; Featherstone,K
Cc: Edi; Monastiriotis,V; Chan,IS; Director
Subject: information about affiliated researcher

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Kind Regards,

Dr. Pinar Dinc

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow,

Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University

Also, if Andréa does not share the information with you for any reason, please do write back to me as I would proceed in alternative ways to supply the official documents to you if necessary.

The case number for my incident with Mr. Ozkirimli that you can refer to in your correspondence with Andréa is P2018/2877. The document is in Swedish, which can easily be translated to English via google translate.

Once again, thank you very much. It made me very happy to see that LSE, a university I am much proud of being an alumni of, is taking this as seriously as I would expect.

Yours Sincerely,
Pinar Dinc.

On 24 Oct 2018, at 11:46, Hunt,JE <J.E.Hunt@lse.ac.uk> wrote:

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Joanne Hunt | HR Partner
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