

Press Release

Carter-Ruck

2 November 2022

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Shaima Dallali – National Union of Students

Shaima Dallali has today announced that she is considering all available legal remedies following her summary dismissal from her role as President of the NUS.

The dismissal follows a disciplinary panel hearing on 27 October 2022. Remarkably – and in keeping with her treatment throughout her brief tenure since being elected in March 2022 – the news of Ms Dallali’s dismissal had already been briefed to and published on at least two national news websites before Ms Dallali had even been informed of the decision, let alone been provided with the written reasons for it. The position was further aggravated by the publication of follow-up articles, citing an unnamed NUS source and falsely denying that this briefing or leak had occurred.

By way of background, the NUS’s investigation, and the ensuing disciplinary process, were initiated by the NUS after they received an investigation report by a senior lawyer in the context of their investigation into antisemitism within the NUS. Ms Dallali fully engaged with both the lawyer’s and the NUS’s investigation processes, and with the disciplinary process that ensued.

Ms Dallali rejects the findings of the disciplinary panel, as she rejected the allegations about her that were investigated in the context of those investigations. She considers the process to have constituted – and that it continues to constitute – discriminatory treatment of her as a black Muslim woman and her beliefs concerning the plight of the Palestinian people.

Ms Dallali had already apologised fully for an inappropriate Tweet which she had published in 2012 (that is, a decade before becoming President). She had also made clear her position that the other tweets for which she had been criticised (and all of which pre-dated her election to her NUS role) were not antisemitic. Both before and during her tenure as President, Ms Dallali has repeatedly made clear her opposition to all forms of racism, including antisemitism, while continuing to campaign to denounce the plight of the Palestinian people.

For further information, please contact lawyers@carter-ruck.com.

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