

AStA of the University of Lüneburg ~ AStA spokespersons
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Lüneburg, 16. Juli 2024

Assessment of anti-Semitism among students at the University of Lüneburg

Compared to everything the AStA speakers at the University of Lüneburg have learnt from state and nationwide networking meetings with other student bodies, the situation at their university is very good. There were several events on the Middle East conflict and anti-Semitism, to which various actors from different areas were invited. These were organised partly by the university and partly by student initiatives and were peaceful and mostly promoted dialogue.

Although there were no known concrete incidents of discrimination, there were still disagreements on the topic. "We noticed that the students were working with different definitions in discussions about the Hamas attack on 7 October and the reactions of the Israeli government. It became clear that not everyone had the same level of information about anti-Semitism and that there was a need for action to promote discrimination-sensitive dialogue," says AStA spokesperson Josephine Kiecol. For this reason, the university's student parliament set up a working group in November to develop definitions that student groups could use in their work. This consisted of students from various committees and initiatives and, after a long and detailed discussion of the topic, submitted a draft resolution to parliament in April. This now provides students active in higher education policy with definitions of anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim racism and contains corresponding calls for action to be taken by various departments at the university, above all to create an educational programme on the topics.

The resolution can be viewed online by all students. It remains to be seen how the culture of debate will continue to develop, but the resolution is an important step forward. The AStA spokespersons hope that the climate at their university will remain as open and open to dialogue.