



Report from CBH

CM#4
2025-12-11



Continued work on Departmental Duties' related issues.

- Discussions with Union Reps (SACO, ST), THS, School HR, Ledningsgrupp, Skolchef
- Discussions going on on departments, program meetings and Ledningsgrup
- Request of Information towards KTH, CBH in regards to the issue pending
- Continue to push until person level and systematic resolution, with potential review of denied extensions.
- Plan for in person meetings in collab with SACO
- Proposal to include student reps in the appeals process for rejected extensions.

Discussions across student issues on items:

- High levels of reported stress
- Low levels of work-life balance
- Imbalance on perceived workload, clarity and other Puls factors between male and female PhD students.
- Obligatory courses at CBH
- Potential reduction of PhD Credits needed.

Fun activities

- KTH Hallen access (not used will be discontinued)
- Julbord (100 participants) Dec 2nd
- Brunch on a Boat (60 participants) Oct 25th

Successes:

- Improved student engagement significantly.
- More people interested in participating in the council and in council activities.
- Improved trust and potential to reach out to the council
- At least half the council is interested in continuing next year, assuring continuity

Challenged:

- Too many interviews, too late notification, we have covered approx. 20 interviews, and couldnt 4

Participation:

- Faculty Assembly
- Ledningsgupp

- Most Departmental Meetings, Program Meetings, Quality Council, JML Group, Docent and Professorship Interviews

Student initiated motions:

- Open mail of board
- Letter initiated by student
- Multiple rounds to make sure this was an issue the students cared about.
- Voted through ths.voteit.se
- Was approved and was forwarded.

Elections

- Using VoteIt
- Nominations Currently Open
- Elections 16 to 22 of December



Anders Söderholm,
President
Amelie Eriksson
Karlström, Head of CBH
CBH School Management
Group
Governing Board for
responsible
internationalization (SAI)
Advisory Board for
Responsible
Internationalization (RAI)
Board of Directors of the
PhD Chapter at KTH
THS Student Union Board
(KS)

Stockholm, 2025-12-09

Accompanying Letter in relation to CBH PhD Council Letter

Esteemed President, CBH Head of School, CBH School Management Group, Members of the Governing and Advisory Boards on Responsible Internationalization(SAI and RAI), Board and Members of the Doctorate Chapter, Board and Members of THS

Doctoral students from CBH have reached out to the council regarding issues surrounding the recent Israeli offensive in Gaza and ongoing occupation of Palestine. The extent to which this is connected with our work at KTH, and more specifically CBH, relates to questions on ethics, and work-environment issues, from collaborating with actors accused of systematic long-term violations of human rights and international law.

In addressing this issue, the CBH PhD Council received a request to consider this motion. An online survey with a draft letter was sent out to PhD Students, requesting their opinion on pursuing this matter, and comments and feedback. At this initial stage the feedback from students was overall positive. The council proceeded to inviting (with a two week notice, and reminders along the way) CBH PhD Students to a student assembly/meeting, in-person, where among other student related items, the letter was discussed, debated and amended. The final letter was approved at the meeting, on November 19th, and the decision was made to vote on forwarding the approved letter to CBH, KTH and

THS management using the THS recommended platform for elections, VoteIT.se.

The poll for the motion was open for 10 days, from 28th of November, until 8th of December, and was communicated through digital channels and in-person meetings.

The students were presented with the letter, and asked if they agree with this letter being forwarded, and the majority approved this decision.

Following our mandate, we forward this letter appropriately.

Kind regards

Michail Magkos
Chairperson
CNH PhD Student Council
cbh-chair@dr.kth.se



Anders Söderholm,
President
Amelie Eriksson
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Letter to CBH and KTH Management to scrutinize collaborations with Israeli Institutions

We, doctoral and licentiate students at CBH, recognize the assessments of global organizations that the State of Israel is at risk of committing (or has committed) genocide in Palestine, as well as having pursued long-term and systematic efforts to occupy Palestinian land. In acknowledging this, we also recognize the long, complex, and deeply rooted historical context of the conflict, and the profound suffering it has brought to people on all sides over many decades. While holding this history in view, we are frightened by what Israel's continued aggressions toward both close and distant neighbours, and its violations of international law, mean for humanity and for efforts toward a sustainable world. As described in the most recent boycott report by Workers and Students in Swedish Academia for Palestine (<https://wassap.se/reports/>), KTH is involved in the SoftEnable Horizon Europe project, which is done in collaboration with Technion Israel Institute of Technology, and has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hebrew university of Jerusalem. Both these universities have close ties to the Israeli military.

- The Hebrew university of Jerusalem directly supports the operation of the IDF in Gaza by providing military units with logistics equipment.
- Technion developed the D9 remote controlled bulldozer which is used to demolish homes of Palestinians.

- In 2008 Technion opened a centre for the development of electrooptics with Elbit Systems, one of the largest Israeli weapons companies.

By engaging in collaborations with these universities, KTH potentially enables the development of technologies that may be used in human rights violations and war crimes, and legitimises these institutions and their actions. This in turn risks complicity for PhD and licentiate students doing research at KTH, as well as any other researcher. Furthermore, with many students within CBH and KTH either having heritage from, or being born and raised in countries affected by Israeli attacks, we also recognize the work-environment issues stemming from forcing upon them collaborations with institutions that have ties to the Israeli military.

On the mandate of KTH, we want to highlight KTH's and our Rektor's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. We call on the institution to reflect on how collaborations and support for an actor that engages in cross-border aggression, commits genocide and violates international law align with or contradict these goals; particularly *Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*.

Furthermore, we believe that some of KTH's current collaborations stand in direct contradiction to recommendation 2023:4, "*Global Responsible Engagement: Checklist*" issued by the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions, of which KTH is a member. Specifically, indicator 4 asks: "*Does the collaboration include an actor within or closely linked to armed forces or the defence industry, or a partner violating human rights?*" As outlined above, this criterion is directly contradicted by at least two ongoing collaborations.

Lastly, we note that the UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 in the latest report A/80/492: "*Gaza Genocide: a collective crime*" writes that "*if Israel itself is unwilling or unable to distinguish between its territory and the occupied Palestinian territories, as is the case, Third States must presume indistinguishability, which requires a comprehensive boycott of Israel.*"

We call upon CBH and KTH to appropriately address those concerns, reflect upon them, and as it set an example in 2022 during the invasion of Ukraine, take the same actions against collaborations with Israel.

Specifically, we, doctoral and licentiate students at CBH, KTH request:

- CBH and KTH to recognize that the mandate and responsibility for any decisions involving academic collaborations from KTH with other institutions lies with KTH and the administrative bodies it is composed of
- CBH and KTH to disclose all and any ongoing and planned collaborations, with Israeli and Israeli affiliated institutions and consortia as well as the nature of these collaborations.
- CBH and KTH to critically and transparently scrutinize any and all collaborations with Israeli affiliated institutions on their risk of those institutions directly or indirectly contributing to human rights violations, and to terminate these collaborations until the ICJ and ICC have determined that Israel has ceased its violations of international law, including occupation of Palestinian territories on the West Bank.
- CBH and KTH to terminate any collaborations in cases where transparent scrutiny is not possible, again until the ICJ and ICC have determined that Israel has ceased its violations of international law, including occupation of Palestinian territories on the West Bank.
- KTH to apply its own “Guidance on responsible internationalization” as available on the website of KTH on Israel, in a same manner as it has been applied to the Russian Federation.
- That whenever any of the above points is legally or practically impossible to execute, CBH and KTH exercise their best effort to fulfil the remaining points.

For the licentiate and PhD students at CBH,

The CBH PhD Council
cbh-board@dr.kth.se

CBH PhD Student Letter to Management to scrutinize collaborations with Israeli Institutions

Dear All,

As stated in the letter, it will be forwarded only if the majority approves the motion.

For transparency, both the introductory part and the actual letter are included.

The letter was formulated based on an initial suggestion from a student, comments from the CBH PhD Council, an online feedback form, and discussions during the CBH PhD Student Assembly on Nov 19th. The final version was approved then.

The question before you is if you approve this letter is forwarded or not.

If you agree with this letter being forwarded, on behalf of CBH PhD and Licentiate Students, vote Approve.

If you disagree, vote Reject.

If you are neutral towards a decision, you can abstain.

To vote, navigate to: Polls -> All Polls on the left side panel, or in Swedish Omröstningar -> Alla omröstningar.

This link might also work to go directly to the poll :)

<https://ths.voteit.se/m/5737/cbh-phd-student-letter-to-management-to-scrutinize-collaborations-with-israeli-institutions/polls/43025/motion-to-forward-formulated-letter-to-cbh-and-kth-management-1>

NOTE!

over the past months we had issues with the registries of phd students, which to our understanding and reporting from students has been solved!

However, if any fellow student, that is a PhD or Licentiate student at CBH does not receive, or is not able to register to the platform, please ask them to reach out to us and we will mitigate that promptly.

Motion to forward formulated letter to CBH and KTH Management

Approved

The Participating Majority of CBH PhD and Licentiate Students approves the following letter is to be forwarded to CBH and KTH management:

Esteemed Rektor, CBH Skolchef, CBH Ledningsgrup, Members of the Governing and Advisory Boards on Responsible Internationalization, Board and Members of the Doctorate Chapter, Board and Members of THS

Doctoral students from CBH have reached out to the council regarding issues surrounding the recent Israeli offensive in Gaza and ongoing occupation of Palestine. The extent to which this is connected with our work at KTH, and more specifically CBH, relates to questions on ethics, and work-environment issues, from collaborating with actors accused of systematic long-term violations of human rights and international law.

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We, doctoral and licentiate students at CBH, recognize the assessments of global organizations that the State of Israel is at risk of committing (or has committed) genocide in Palestine, as well as having pursued long-term and systematic efforts to occupy Palestinian land. In acknowledging this, we also recognize the long, complex, and deeply rooted historical context of the conflict, and the profound suffering it has brought to people on all sides over many decades. While holding this history in view, we are frightened by what Israel's continued aggressions toward both close and distant neighbors, and its violations of international law, mean for humanity and for efforts toward a sustainable world. As described in the most recent boycott report by *Workers and Students in Swedish Academia for Palestine* (<https://wassap.se/reports/>), KTH is involved in the SoftEnable Horizon Europe project, which is done in collaboration with Technion Israel Institute of Technology, and has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hebrew university of Jerusalem. Both these universities have close ties to the Israeli military.

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