

## Programme

# Speak Out: Exploring Protected Beliefs and Free Speech in UK Higher Education

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
**Time:** 10:30 – 16:00  
**Venue:** Virtual, Zoom

**10.30 – 10:35:** Welcome and introduction, *David Bass, Director, EDI, Advance HE*

**10:35 – 11:00:** Introduction to AHE guidance on protected beliefs, *David Bass, Director, EDI, Advance HE*

- Definition and scope of protected beliefs
- Rights of individuals to hold and express their beliefs
- Responsibilities of higher education institutions in upholding diversity and inclusion
- Learning from significant cases
- Decision making

**11.00 – 11:15:** Q&A on the guidance, *David Bass, Director, EDI, Advance HE*

**11.15 – 12:15:** Interactive scenario workshop sessions round 1, *Lucy Parker, Senior Consultant EDI, Advance HE*

**12.15 – 13:00:** Lunch break

**13.00 – 13:45:** Interactive Scenario Workshop Sessions round 2, *Lucy Parker, Senior Consultant EDI, Advance HE*

**13.45 – 14:15:** Legal perspective: The UK's legal framework for free speech and protected beliefs in higher education, *Smita Jamdar, Partner & Head of Education Shakespeare Martineau*

**14:00 – 14:15:** Questions to be answered (the grey areas)

**14:15 - 15:15:** Discussion and Q&A with panel of experts, *David Bass, Senior Consultant EDI, Advance HE, Smita Jamdar, Partner & Head of Education Shakespeare Martineau, Lucy Parker, Senior Consultant EDI, Advance HE and Dr Adam Dawkins is Deputy Academic Registrar (Student and Academic Governance) at the University of Sunderland.*

An opportunity to discuss the previous exercise and to hear from our panel of experts on their responses to the scenarios

**15.15 – 15:45:** Next steps, *David Bass, Director, EDI, Advance HE*

**15.45 - 16:00:** Closing Remarks, *David Bass, Director, EDI, Advance HE*