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BEARBEITET VON Bettina Klingbeil

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GZ 41531-1
(Bitte stets angeben)

RE **Your letter dated 23 May 2024**

Dear Professor Gordon,

Thank you very much for your letter addressed to the Federal Minister of Education and Research and please accept our apologies for the delayed reply. Federal Minister of Education and Research, Ms Stark-Watzinger, has asked me to reply on her behalf.

In your letter you refer to the discussions at universities and science organizations about the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, the subsequent Israeli military operations and the position taken by the Federal Research Minister in this context.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has been in contact since 7 October 2023 with many stakeholders in the higher education and science landscape and in antisemitism research and prevention about developments and need for action. Before the end of last year, the BMBF conducted a quick survey among students to shed light on antisemitic attitudes and experiences of discrimination at universities (Hinz et al: *Studentisches Meinungsklima zur Gewalteskalation in Israel und Gaza und Antisemitismus an deutschen Hochschulen*). The results of the survey provide a differentiated picture while underscoring the need for action with regard to antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment at our universities.

Many universities have continued, intensified and launched new action in the past months to provide concrete support to combating antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment. The BMBF welcomes this involvement as a central element in the fight against anti-Israel sentiment and antisemitism. It is in the interest of the action plan of the Federal Government and the *Länder*

SEITE 2 to combat antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment at universities (adopted by the Kultusministerkonferenz on 7 December 2023).

In the coming weeks and months, the BMBF will continue the exchange begun with stakeholders in higher education and science.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bettina Klingbeil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'B'.

Bettina Klingbeil
Head of Division 415 – Academic Research