

8 October 2010

Professor Moshe Kaveh  
President  
Bar-Ilan University  
Ramat Gan  
52900 Israel

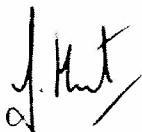
Dear Professor Kaveh

On behalf of the University and College Union in the United Kingdom, representing 120,000 academic and academic related staff in post-school institutions throughout the UK, we are writing to express our grave concern about the decision to deny tenure to Dr Ariella Azoulay, which has been drawn to our attention by colleagues in the international academic community. Dr Azoulay has taught in Bar-Ilan's Department of Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies for a number of years and has an impeccable academic record, and we understand she is a distinguished scholar and practitioner in her field. She has been described recently as 'one of Israel's foremost cultural theorists'.

Therefore the decision of the university appears to have been made because of Dr Azoulay's political views rather than her demonstrably high academic qualifications. Yet we remind you that, as our colleagues in the Canadian Association of University Teachers have said, all great universities throughout the world are distinguished by their unyielding commitment to academic freedom.

We would like to be assured that Bar-Ilan's decision was not taken on political grounds, and if so what the grounds for refusing tenure to Dr Azoulay were.

Yours sincerely



Sally Hunt  
General Secretary