



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
STUDENTS' UNION

Monday, November 18, 2019

The Executive Committee
University of Toronto Students' Union
12 Hart House Circle
Toronto, ON M5S 3J9

RE: In Support of the Kosher Forward Campaign

The Executive Committee of the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) would like to publicly lend its support to the Kosher Forward campaign, which is calling for more kosher food options to be offered on our campus. This campaign highlights an extremely important issue that affects all students: food security and accessibility.

We know it is important that all students have access to food that is required of their religious background, their dietary restrictions, or any other factor. No student should have to leave campus in order to go get food, just to have to come back to campus for class or other commitments they may have. We echo the Kosher Forward campaign's recognition that there is a lack of explicitly kosher options for U of T's sizable Jewish student population, and this should be rectified.

Food security for all students is an issue that has been part of the Executive Committee's priorities since we began our terms. We have increased our focus on the Food Bank (available Fridays at the Multi-Faith Centre) and we are running events such as our Pay-What-You-Can Soup Day. The Kosher Forward campaign has highlighted the issue of food security and accessibility, and we are thankful that this work has been taken up with such passion.

We have invited representatives from the Kosher Forward campaign to meet with our Executive Committee to gain a better understanding of how the UTSU can lend its support. As the UTSU Executive, we are privileged to be able to meet with representatives from the university administration, including the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and University of Toronto Food Services. We look forward to lending any support we can to the campaign.



We are one of five major representative student unions at the University of Toronto. Each separate union has their own governance structures and makes decisions on their actions on their own accord. There has been confusion in the media attributing a statement by the University of Toronto Graduate Students Union (UTGSU) on the Kosher Forward campaign, to us. We would like to reiterate that we are the UTSU, representing over 38,000 undergraduate students at the St. George campus. We are not the UTGSU. We would like to make it clear that we do support the Kosher Forward campaign, and any actions taken by the UTGSU are their own, independent of any other organization on campus.

We condemn all forms of discrimination and harassment, including but not limited to antisemitic, Islamophobic, sexist, racist, anti-Black, ableist, homophobic, or transphobic sentiments or remarks. We as the UTSU strive to create a campus environment that is inclusive and welcoming to each and every student.

For media inquiries, please contact media@utsu.ca.

Yours in service,

The UTSU Executive | executives@utsu.ca | 416-978-4911