University of Mannheim against anti-Semitism

Statement on anti-Semitic drawings in the University Library Mannheim

On Friday evening, June 1, a student of our university discovered anti-Semitic drawings and slogans in a breakout room of the University Library. The student informed the library’s security guard on duty and reported the crime to the police. There are no known suspects to date. The library is open to the public and there is no CCTV on the premises.

The University of Mannheim clearly dissociates itself from the anti-Semitic statements and condemns them in the strongest terms. "The University of Mannheim is and sees itself as an open and tolerant place where students, teachers, and employees of all religions and nationalities are equally welcome. Inhumane and racist slogans have no place here," says President Professor Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden. "We want all university members to feel safe here and will do all we can to keep it this way." Since the incident has become known, the University Presidency has engaged in dialog with the student who discovered the scrawlings, as well as the University Library and the general students’ committee of the university (AStA), which has condemned the act, too, in the strongest terms. The university will report the crime to the police.

As a member of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), the University of Mannheim has publicly spoken out against xenophobia and racism in 2016 under the slogan “Open Universities – Against Xenophobia”.

Mannheim, 6. August 2018