

PRESS RELEASE

29.8.2022

WE STAND WITH SAFOORA'S COMMITMENT TO HER EDUCATION

**APPEAL TO THE VICE CHANCELLOR AND THE FACULTY COMMITTEE, JAMIA MILLIA
ISLAMIA UNIVERSITY,
TO UNDO THE INJUSTICE AND ALLOW HER TO COMPLETE HER MPhil**

On 30th August 2022, over 150 feminist activists, individuals and groups came together to appeal to the Vice Chancellor and Faculty Committee of Jamia Millia Islamia University to revoke the cancellation of Safoora Zargar's admission, and to allow her to submit her Mphil thesis.

All women have to struggle in a brahminical patriarchal society to access education, the struggle increases manifold when the woman belongs to a marginalised community. The extensions denied to Safoora by Jamia Millia to complete her degree in the Department of Sociology, have been granted unconditionally to research scholars en masse by the UGC because of the havoc wreaked by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-21.

She was asked to apply for an extension specifically for women scholars. Now she has even been denied that on the grounds that her work is 'unsatisfactory.' This is in direct contradiction to earlier evaluations where she was told that she had "made good headway" with her research and that she had "identified the categories and concepts through which to articulate (her) research topic.

Education is not only about degrees, but about learning, growing, and nurturing of minds. However, we are all too aware that universities have routinely functioned as spaces of exclusion, be it by way of caste, gender, class, religion, sexuality or any other marginalised identity. The bedrock of Jamia Millia Islamia university has always been dialogue and progressive politics, Safoora's values belong to that progressive idea of the university as an intellectual space. To deny her education in that very university seems to go against the fundamental values of such an esteemed institution.

The statement appeals to the Vice Chancellor and the faculty committee to revoke Safoora's cancellation of her admission and allow her to submit her thesis and complete the requirements of her MPhil degree.

The complete statement and the list of signatories is attached to this.

WE STAND WITH SAFOORA'S COMMITMENT TO HER EDUCATION

APPEAL TO THE VICE CHANCELLOR, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA UNIVERSITY, TO UNDO THE INJUSTICE AND ALLOW HER TO COMPLETE HER MPhil

We, the undersigned women's rights activists and women's groups, are dismayed at the denial of the routine extensions to Safoora Zargar to complete her M.Phil degree.

Safoora needs no introduction. She is a student activist who gained prominence during the anti-CAA movement, and has been targeted for standing up for the right to peaceful protest and dissent, as guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Instead of standing by her through what have been several extremely challenging years for Safoora, and supporting her to finish her degree, the university has systematically denied her the rights routinely extended to all other students.

All women have to struggle in a brahminical patriarchal society to access education, the struggle increases manifold when the woman belongs to a marginalised community which has been increasingly under attack by the State. While the persecution of the Muslim community in India is making international headlines, Indian society and the State continue to deny it, on the one hand, and enable increased intolerance and discrimination, on the other. Being a Muslim woman activist who stood for the constitutional rights of not only her community but also of society, Safoora has suffered incarceration and multiple attacks, both politically and personally. The horror of what tomorrow might bring for her, continues to haunt her at every moment.

To add to her suffering, Jamia Millia has denied extensions to complete her degree in the Department of Sociology. These have been granted unconditionally to research scholars en masse by the UGC because of the havoc wreaked by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-21. Since the universities and departments were shut down, and access to libraries closed off, all research scholars were granted multiple extensions. Yet Safoora was deemed ineligible for more than one extension without any legitimate justification.

She was subsequently asked to apply for an extension specifically for women scholars. Now she has even been denied that on the grounds that her work is 'unsatisfactory.' This is in direct contradiction to earlier evaluations where she was told that she had "made good headway" with her research and that she had "identified the categories and concepts through which to articulate (her) research topic".

It is commendable that Safoora has managed to meet work deadlines through her pregnancy, incarceration and childbirth, despite the severe mental duress she is undergoing as someone being prosecuted on unfair grounds. We fail to understand why her repeated pleas and rightful asks have gone unanswered, and why she is being discriminated against when extensions have been approved by the UGC and have been provided to all research scholars across the board. The discrimination shown by the department and the university adds to the violence that she has already been through, and continues to undergo in both online and offline spaces.

Education is not only about degrees, but about learning, growing, and nurturing of minds. However, we are all too aware that universities have routinely functioned as spaces of exclusion, be it by way of caste, gender, class, religion, sexuality or any other marginalised identity. The bedrock of Jamia Millia Islamia university has always been dialogue and progressive politics, Safoora's values belong to that progressive idea of the university as an intellectual space. To deny her education in that very university seems to go against the fundamental values of such an esteemed institution.

Today, after all her attempts to seek fair treatment were denied within the Sociology department, Safoora has petitioned the Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia University, for justice.

We unequivocally stand with her and join our voices to her appeal to the Vice Chancellor and the faculty committee to revoke the cancellation of her admission and grant her the rightful extension as a woman scholar and allow her to submit her thesis and complete the requirements of her MPhil degree.

This grave injustice on Safoora Zargar must be undone immediately.

Name	Affiliation/Profession/University	City
Saheli Women's Resource Centre		Delhi
Nivedita Menon	JNU Delhi	Delhi
Anuradha Banerji	Independent Researcher	
Noor Mahvish	Student Activist	Kolkata
Navsharan Singh	Independent Academic	Delhi
Poonam Kaushik	Pragatisheel Mahila Sangathan	Delhi
Sunalini	Ambedkar University Delhi	Delhi
Ankoor Dasgupta	Advertising Professional	Delhi
Mallarika Sinha Roy	JNU	Delhi
Sayandeb Chowdhury	Ambedkar University Delhi	New Delhi
Sharmila Purkayastha	Miranda House	Delhi
Aparna	Indian Federation of Trade Unions	New Delhi
Jenny Rowena P	University of Delhi	Delhi
Shampa Rot	Associate professor	Delhi
Shampa Roy	Associate professor	Delhi
Amandeep kaur	General secretary _istri jagriti manch	Patiala Punjab
Devangana Kalita	JNU	New Delhi
Smita Gupta	Researcher and Activist	New Delhi
Gorvika Rao	Miranda House	Delhi
parmjeet kaur	Zameen prapti sangharsh commety	longowal sangrur district Punjab
Deepika Tandon	Delhi University	Delhi
Nandini	WSS	Delhi
Rupinder kaur	State committee member istri jagti manch,punjab	Nawanshar
Shraddha	-	Delhi
Meera Sanghamitra	National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM)	Telangana
Smita Gupta	Researcher and Activist	New Delhi
Pradeep Kumar	Trade unionist, IFTU	Hyderabad
Prof.Mohan Rao	Former professor, JNU	Bangalore

Name	Affiliation/Profession/University	City
Saswati Sengupta	Citizen of India	Delhi
Roma	AIUFWP	New Delhi
Meena Saraswathi Seshu	Social work	Sangli
Mamta Jaitly	Freelance activist	Jaipur
Senganglu Thaimai	Miranda House, University of Delhi	Delhi
Sandeep kaur	Kirti kisan union leader	Sangrur
Kamaldeep kaur	Punjab students union district leader	Sangrur
Shweta Sachdeva Jha	Associate Professor, Miranda House, University of Delhi	Delhi
Ayesha Kidwai	Jawaharlal Nehru University	New Delhi
Ghazala Jamil	Jawaharlal Nehru University	New Delhi
Sandhya	Forum Against Oppression of Women	Mumbai
Sucharita Sen	JNU	New Delhi
Madhuri	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
Ujjwala	Translator	Mumbai
Bittu K R	Ashoka University	Sonipat
M.lakshmi.	POW	Visakhapatnam
M.adilakshmi.	POW	Visakhapatnam
Rukmini Banerjee	Student	Kolkata
Jassveer kaur	Istri jagriti munch	Jalanfhar
R.ganga bhavani	Pow	Vijayawada
Jasveer kaur	Istri jagriti manch	Jalandhar
Srinivas.p	Association for protection of civil rightsAPCR	Vijayawada
Hardeep kaur	University	Amritsar
Anuhar Kaur	Guru Nanak Dev University	Amritsar
Pratiksha Baxi	JNU	Delhi
Niharika	Professor	Delhi
ALKA ACHARYA	JNU	New Delhi

Name	Affiliation/Profession/University	City
Tinku Khanna	Feminists in Resistance	Kolkata
Ranvir Singh	Punjabi university patiala	Punjab
Charanjeet kaur	Vice president,istri jagriti manch,punjab	Barnala state punjab
Joy Pachuau	Jnu	Delhi
Farhat salim	Jawaharlal Nehru University	New Delhi
Deepti Bharti	National Federation of Indian Women	New Delhi
kanwaljit kaur	teacher	amritsar
Sujan Sarkar	Student (IEM, Kolkata)	Kolkata
Sumit singh	Masters/ student / punjab engineering college	Chandigarh
Keshmira	Individual	Mumbai
Chirashree Das Gupta	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Delhi
Dr. Kamaxi Bhate	Doctor , medical teacher	Mumbai
Shirin Roy	Calcutta University	Kolkata
Suhas Ganguli MD DCH FAAP FACR	Attending Physician (Consultant), Pediatric Rheumatology	New York, NY
Haridas	N A	Thrissur
Jayati Ghosh	University of Massachusetts Amherst	New Delhi
Anannya	Independent	Delhi
Farah Naqvi	Independent Writer & Activist	Delhi
Pyoli Swatija	Advocate	New Delhi
Farah Naqvi	Independent Writer & Activist	Delhi
Malika Viridi	Uttarakhand Mahila Manch	Munsiari
Kalyani Menon Sen	Independent researcher	Gurgaon
Anjali Datta	Writer	Noida
Dr. Uma Chakravarti	Formerly of Miranda House, University College For Women, Delhi University	Delhi
Abha bhaiya	India coordinator One Billion Rising	Dharamshala
Pamela Philipose	Independent journalist	New Delhi

Name	Affiliation/Profession/University	City
Pradip Das	This grave injustice on Safoora Zargar must be undone immediately.	Howrah
Nidhi	Environment and Gender Rights Activist	Appeal to kindly allow Safoora to complete her education!
Nandini Dhar	Feminists in Resistance	Kolkata
Koel Chatterji	Feminists in Resistance	Kolkata
Saswati Ghosh	Academic and activist	Kolkata
Mohd Abuzar Choudhary	Independent Journalist	New Delhi
Amod Shah	PhD Researcher	Ahmedabad
Vidyun	Artist	Delhi
Shreya	Student	Gurgaon
Areeb Rizvi	Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi	New Delhi
Vinod kumar	Culture	Patna
Niranjan K S	Law Student, Jamia Millia Islamia	Delhi
Syed Wajahat Ali	Sarojini Naidu Centre for women's Studies, Jamua Millia Islamia	New Delhi
Anubhuti	Educator	Delhi
Azeem Ahmad	Teacher	Delhi
Muneer Khan	Student, Jamia Millia Islamia	New Delhi
Shishu Ranjan	Azim Premi University	Bangalore
Shahasad K K	Jamia Millia Islamia	Delhi
Bindu M	Associate Professor	Bengaluru
Uttam Kumar	COLLECTIVE, University of Delhi	New Delhi
Asha G	Neuroscientist	Trivandrum
Kriti Budhiraja	PhD student	Delhi/Minneapolis
Kamini Tankha	Concerned Citizen	New Delhi
Khushi	Jamia Millia islamia	Meerut

Name	Affiliation/Profession/University	City
Poushali Basak	Forum against Oppression of Women and Feminists in Resistance	Kolkata
Abdul Fathah Nazar	Azim Premji University	Banglore
Devika	Saheli	Delhi
Swatija	FAOW	Thane
Sujata Patel	Retired Professor, University of Hyderabad	Pune
Lalita Ramdas	Popular Educator	Hyderabad
Amita Pitre	Independent Researcher and Development Practitioner	Mumbai
Gurpreet Kaur	Researcher	Delhi
Shailza Sharma	WSS	Delhi
Sandhya Phadke	individual	Pune
dyuti	University of Sussex	Brighton
Rajeev Roy	Marketing	Mumbai
Kaveri M	Student	London
Rita Manchanda	South Asia Forum for Human Rights	New Delhi
Damini	Ambedkar university	Delhi
Mamatha Karollil	Ambedkar University Delhi	New Delhi
Sujata Gothoskar	Researcher and activist	Mumbai
Dr Akanksha Mehta	Goldsmiths, University of London	London
Ramlath	None	Berlin
Sonya Gill	AIDWA Maharashtra	Mumbai
Vinay Brandon	DSE	Delhi
Archana Prasad	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Delhi
Veena Linda	AIDWA Jharkhand	Ranchi
Sadekul Islam	Aliah University	Kolkata
Twinkle	JNU	New Delhi
Prof.Mohan Rao	Former professor at JNU, New Delhi	Bangalore

Name	Affiliation/Profession/University	City
Asha Sharma	Social worker	New delhi
Saima Hussain	Tata Institute of Social Sciences	Mumbai
Asadul Islam	journalist	kolkata
Shabnam Hashmi	Anhad	New Delhi
Maya Krishna Rao	Theatre Artist	Goa
Anomita Sen	Actor	Delhi
Sadhna Saxena	Teaching	Udaipur
Lata Singh	JNU	Delhi
Rohini Hensman	Writer, researcher and activist	Mumbai
Komal Saigal	Individual	New Delhi
Suhasini Mulay	None	Mumbai
Alaka Basu	Cornell University	Ithaca, NY, USA
Chandan Nagaraja	Nlsiu	Bangalore
Tanweer Islam Khan	West Bengal Govt. Employee in Power Department	Kolkata
Shivani taneja	Educationist	Bhopal
MARIA AISHWARYA B	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, STELLA MARIS COLLEGE, CHENNAI, INDIA	CHENNAI
Rakhi Sehgal	Labour Researcher	New Delhi
Meera Visvanathan	Historian	Greater Noida
Pradipta Bandyopadhyay	Personal	Delhi
Afreen	NGO	Mumbai
Chhaya Datar	Ex-Professor TISS, Mumbai	Mumbai
Anisha Debbarman	University of Sussex	Brighton, UK
Apeksha Priyadarshini	Bhagat Singh Ambedkar Students Organization, JNU	New Delhi
Ananya Dash	University of Hyderabad	Hyderabad
Maimoona AM		New Delhi
Asima Jena	University of Hyderabad	Hyderabad