



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

4th April 2019

Dame Minouche Shafik
Director
London School of Economics and Political Science
Houghton Street, London
WC2A 2AE

Dear Dame Minouche,

We are writing to express our serious concern regarding your recent decision to change the colour depicting Taiwan to match that of China on 'The World Turned Upside Down' sculpture. Your decision to depict Taiwan as a part of China, followed by pressure from Chinese students, is not only erroneous but also contrary to UK Government policy, and therefore request LSE to maintain the sculpture's original colour for Taiwan.

Depicting Taiwan as part of China is inaccurate and misleading as Taiwan has never been a part of the People's Republic of China. It is also contrary to the UK Government's longstanding policy to refer to Taiwan as simply 'Taiwan', as Mark Field, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign Commonwealth Office, publicly stated on 10 July 2018. The designation 'Taiwan' is used across all government departments and agencies as shown on the gov.uk/worldwide website and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's territory register. Your decision therefore is neither based on fact nor in line with the UK's policy and practice.

LSE's decision has resulted in great confusion and protest among Taiwanese students and scholars. Many Taiwanese studying at LSE feel their rights and nationality are being sacrificed.

As a model institution of higher education in the UK that prizes academic freedom and freedom of speech, LSE should not succumb to this pressure as doing so would undermine these democratic principles and would constitute political interference in the academic sphere. 'The World Turned Upside Down' sculpture, a symbol of artistic freedom and freedom of expression, should not be altered for political consideration.



NIGEL EVANS MP



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UK-Taiwanese educational relations are steadily increasing, with approximately 12,000 Taiwanese studying in the UK as of 2017. In 2018, LSE welcomed 56 students from Taiwan, including 13 undergraduates and 43 graduates. Many Taiwanese scholars and academics see LSE as a top destination for further study and research in the UK. Maintaining the sculpture's original depiction of Taiwan may well facilitate increasing educational exchanges between the UK and Taiwan.

We sincerely urge LSE to reconsider its decision and leave the sculpture's original depiction of Taiwan unchanged in order to maintain accuracy, prevent political interference and safeguard our shared values of freedom of speech and expression.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Evans MP

Lord Rogan

Co-Chairs of the British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group



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