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## Brac univ terms tearing textbook act of vandalism

Staff Correspondent | Published at 11:43pm on January 29, 2024



BRAC University in a statement on Monday said that the university did not promote homosexuality, as has been alleged by some quarters in different social media contents.

However, the university believes in equal rights and opportunities for every single human being to realise their potential, according to the statement issued by the Office of Communications of the university.

It also said the university respects and fully complies with the country's constitution and laws on all matters.

The university came up with the statement in the wake of protests and threats by some quarters, including the Islamist parties, to boycott all BRAC entities for the termination of BRAC university teacher Asif Mahtab.

The statement said the recent act of tearing pages of a textbook published by the government for Class VII and asking others to do the same by the university's part-time teacher Asif Mahtab Utsha in a public forum was an act of vandalism.

Mentioning that BRAC University did not support such behaviour, it also said the university believes, like all higher educational institutions, that its role should be creating space for all views to be discussed and debated constructively with tolerance and respect.

'The University considers any act of vandalism towards national property as unacceptable behaviour and does not tolerate or support such activities,' it read.

The statement said the university, therefore, cannot offer a part-time teaching contract to Asif for the spring 2024 semester. But the university will compensate the teacher for his time and efforts towards his preparatory work for spring 2024.

On January 19, BRAC university teacher Asif Mahtab tore up the pages containing a story titled 'Sharifa' regarding the life of the Hijra community in the history and social science textbook of Class VII, alleging that the story promoted 'incitement of homosexuality'.

A video clip of the incident went viral on social media and drew huge criticism in favour of and against Asif Mahtab for the incident. However, those involved in preparing the new curriculum said that a group was opposing textbooks without understanding them.

Amid the debate, the education ministry on Wednesday formed a five-member committee to review the 'Sharifa' story.



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