Defend Academic Freedom: Reverse the UK Travel Ban on Andreas Malm

The Home Office's decision to cancel Swedish climate scholar Andreas Malm's authorisation to travel to Britain is a serious threat to academic freedom. The ability of scholars to exchange ideas and participate in public debate—including on politically contentious issues—is fundamental to a free and democratic society.

Malm was due to attend an academic conference, appear on the BBC, and participate in a public discussion organised by Tribune alongside Huda Ammori, co-founder of the proscribed organisation Palestine Action. The timing of the cancellation suggests a connection to this planned event, although the Home Office has not confirmed this. It has offered no substantive public explanation for its decision, beyond the vague assertion that Malm's presence may not be "conducive to the public good".

The government has broad powers to deny foreign nationals entry to Britain. But exercising these powers against scholars travelling to participate in academic and public discussions demands careful scrutiny and compelling justification. If participation in a politically contentious event can result in scholars being denied entry to Britain, other scholars may become reluctant to speak openly on sensitive political issues. Such a chilling effect threatens academic freedom and undermines Britain's reputation as a country committed to open intellectual debate.

In the absence of any compelling public justification, we and **more than 900** other academics urge the Home Office to restore Malm's permission to travel to Britain.

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