

Scifi Statement following the Conference 'Celebrating Women at the Faculty of Physics'

On the 11th of February we held a conference to celebrate female scientists at the Faculty of Physics for the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The event was a great success with more than 120 participants and exciting talks from amazing scientists at and around our faculty. We want to again thank all participants and speakers for their contributions and we are already looking forward to the next event.

During the conference, there was a Zoom-Bombing incident abusing the 'Annotation' function. The racist and anti-semitic commentary was documented and removed. We thank the participants who spoke out in solidarity with the speaker, and who named the user committing the infraction. As this form of hate speech and *Wiederbetätigung* is illegal, it has been reported to the Dean's Office, and the [Bedrohungsmanagement](#) (Threat and Violence Prevention Office) of the University of Vienna. They have reported the incident to the authorities.

This cowardly attempt to interrupt our conference did not succeed. All three of our main panelists gave exciting and unique keynotes on their experiences and perspectives working in physics, the flash-talks enthusiastically spanned a broad range of modern physics and we had engaging conversations during the panel discussion. This racist attack only highlights the importance of events like this and encourages us to keep going and hopefully tackle even more topics of inclusion and diversity in future events.

If you are affected by this incident or feel unsafe the [Psychological Counselling Center for Students](#) offers anonymous, free counselling. We strongly encourage anyone experiencing or witnessing racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory incidents or behaviour to speak out by reporting it to the [student representatives](#), the [Sexual Harassment & Bullying Counselling Office](#) or the [Bedrohungsmanagement](#).

We agree wholeheartedly with the statement put forward by the Dean's Office as well as the statement of the student representatives condemning the incident. Such actions do not and never will have a place at our faculty and it is the responsibility of all of us to stand up against these things.

Best regards,

the Organising Committee (Clara Conrad-Billroth, Heena Inani, Manuel Längle & Margaret Rosenberg)