

**Question for written answer E-001693/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Carmen Avram (S&D)

Subject: Follow-up to Written Questions E-006245/2020 and E-005567/2020 on violence, discrimination, racism and antisemitism in school books

In November 2020, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) assured MEPs that ‘there is absolutely no room for any teaching which would encourage violence, discrimination, racism or antisemitism’ in its schools¹. UNRWA later stated in January 2021 that materials inconsistent with UN values were ‘mistakenly included’ in study materials²³.

Despite promises by UNRWA that this issue had been resolved by last November⁴, a report published in February by IMPACT-se⁵ reviewing UNRWA-produced materials labelled for use from November 2020 to January 2021 found hateful content which promoted violence, condemned Arab-Israeli peace-making, endorsed jihad and erased Israel from maps.

The materials feature the signatures of senior UNRWA officials and were produced by teachers whom UNRWA claimed had been ‘trained in teaching tolerance and conflict resolution’⁶.

The Commission recently announced that it would increase the level of its financial support for the UNRWA programme budget for 2021⁷.

1. Is the Commission aware of IMPACT-se’s report and what is its position?
2. Will the Commission require UNRWA to make all curricula and educational content in use available in open-source form?
3. What assessment⁸ has been made of the effectiveness of UNRWA’s so-called ‘teacher-centred approach’, and what independent mechanisms are in place to ensure oversight, accountability and transparency of UNRWA’s teaching materials?

¹ https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/committee-on-foreign-affairs_20201109-1345-COMMITTEE-AFET-1_vd

² <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-improves-safeguards-ensuring-adherence-educational-materials-un>

³ EU-funded report on Palestinian textbooks: concerns over incitement, anti-Semitic content and imagery – the EU’s position and response (europa.eu)

⁴ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-01/146853>

⁵ https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/UNRWA-Produced-Study-Materials_Post-November-2020.pdf

⁶ <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-improves-safeguards-ensuring-adherence-educational-materials-un>

⁷ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-000094-ASW_EN.html

⁸ Follow up to questions and answers E-003051/2020 and E-002978/2020 – EU funding and the fight against terrorism and incitement to violence (europa.eu)