

## **The International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies**

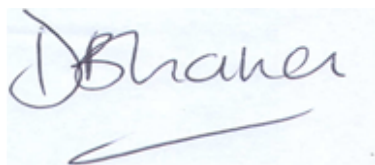
In 2020, RINGS was alerted to the arrest and detention of Patrick George Zaki, a human rights and LGBT rights activist in Egypt, who was arrested while on a short visit to his family from his postgraduate studies in the Erasmus Mundus Master Degree in Women's and Gender Studies (GEMMA) programme.

It has been one year since Patrick Zaki, a student of the Erasmus Mundus Master of Arts "GEMMA" in *Women's and Gender Studies* at the University of Bologna, has been arrested in his hometown in Egypt and kept in detention ever since. His imprisonment and prolonged detention shocked academic communities across Europe and beyond; calls for Patrick Zaki's release continue to be strong and loud.

Together with all those fighting for release of Patrick Zaki we state once again our support for the GEMMA Consortium Statement and the Motion of the University of Bologna and their strong requests for Patrick's release.

As RINGS, we deplore his detention, and add our support to the call for his immediate release.

Sincerely,



Deevia Bhana, Professor & South African Research Chair in Gender and Childhood Sexuality, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; and Dr. Annette von Alemann, Professor of Sociology with a focus on Social Inequality and Gender Research, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Co-chairs, on behalf of RINGS: the International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies (over 60 institutional members worldwide)