

NUS Wales LGBT+ Conference Motions 2017

Os ydych angen y ddogfen hon mewn ffurf arall cysylltwch ag UCM ar 0845 5210 262 neu e-bostiwch events@nus.org.uk If you need this document in another format contact NUS on 0845 5210 262 or email events@nus.org.uk

Key information

Purpose of this document This document outlines the full order of all motions submitted by Constituent Members to the NUS Wales LGBT+ Conference.

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Motion 1: Let's remember the T!

Submitted by: NUS Wales LGBT+ Committee

Conference believes:

- 1. That NUS UK Trans conference 2017 has elected its first full-time trans officer.
- 2. Thanks to the great work of many LGBT+ activists the LGB+ community has made vast progress in achieving equality and liberation for LGB+ people.
- 3. However the same cannot be said for the trans community, which still faces marginalisation, discrimination and prejudice in regards to legal recognition, equal marriage, health care and equal rights, for example.

Conference further believes:

- 1. Wales is currently the only one of the four countries in the United Kingdom that does not have a Gender Identity Clinic. For many trans people, getting to London is not possible due to inaccessibility – either due to other existing health or financial issues.
- 2. According to a 2012 study for the NHS, it is estimated there are over 31,300 trans people in Wales, yet there are significant problems that have not been addressed, such as health care, legal rights, and education issues
- The lack of trans officers in Wales Student Unions means that there is lack of things done to improve the 3. current state of Wales for trans students
- 4. There are many issues in Wales that need to be addressed by a NUS Wales Trans Officer such as the addition of a gender clinic, implementing gender-neutral terms into the Welsh language and education, as well as encouraging places to invest in gender-neutral facilities

- 1. To support the addition of an autonomous liberation NUS Wales Trans Campaign
- 2. To encourage both the NUS Wales LGBT+ Officers and NUS Wales LGBT+ Campaign to actively campaign FOR a NUS Wales Trans Officer, to pass at NUS Wales National Conference 2018.
- 3. To create a voluntary NUS Wales Trans Officer who shall sit on the WNEC, and:
 - a. To create an autonomous NUS Trans Liberation campaign separate from the NUS Wales LGBT+ campaign
 - b. the NUS Wales Trans officer shall be elected at the NUS Wales Trans Conference.
 - c. The NUS Wales Trans officer shall sit on the NUS UK Trans committee
 - The NUS Wales Trans officer shall have speaking and voting rights at the NUS UK trans conference d.
 - That the NUS Wales Trans Conference must also elect a committee of volunteers to form the NUS e. Wales Trans Campaign National Committee
 - f. That the first NUS Wales Trans Officer shall be elected at NUS Wales Trans Conference in 2018/19 ready to take office in July 2019

Motion 2: LGBT+ survivor support now!

Submitted by: NUS Wales LGBT+ Committee

Conference believes:

- 1. Sexual assault for queer and trans women is as high as 61% compared to their heterosexual counterparts at 35%
- 2. 40% of gay men and 47% of bi+ men have experienced sexual acts of violence compared to 21% of their heterosexual counterparts
- 3. over 50% of trans people have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives

Conference further believes:

- 1. Due to the fear of being outed if they approach their family, the courts, or the police, LGBT+ people are less likely to report their experience of sexual assault
- 2. There is currently little legislation to support LGBT+ survivors, as most legislation has heteronormative assumptions

- Aid support to LGBT+ survivor support organisations that has financial issues and risks closing 2. Provide resources for SU advice and relevant university welfare staff on LGBT+ survivors including signposting to relevant organisations
- 1. Provide a toolkit that all societies can access on statistics and resources
- 2. Encourage LGBT+ groups to support student survivors by organising safe spaces/ networks and to ensure such networks are LGBT+ inclusive
- 3. Work with NUS Wales Women's Campaign, along with NUS UK LGBT+ Campaign, NUS Scotland LGBT+ Campaign and NUS USI LGBT+ Campaign on the #StandByMe initiative to call for the repealing of the Zellick report, to lobby universities and colleges for better reporting systems, and creating LGBT+ inclusive survivor support networks
- 4. Word count: 224

Motion 3: We're here, we're queer, but with no one to care

Submitted by: NUS Wales LGBT+ Committee

Conference believes:

- 1. The New Starts report indicates that there were 9,338 students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland officially recognised by Student Loan Company as 'estranged' in 2013-14.
- 2. Letting agents and Landlords often require a financial guarantor in the form of a parent or guardian in 13 order for students to rent a property. Without this financial backing, estranged students often have to pay all their rent up front or find accommodation that does require a financial guarantor.
- 3. Estranged students are more likely to experience poor mental health and experience higher dropout rates than their non-estranged peers.
- 4. Studies have shown that LGBT+ and BME students more likely to experience estrangement.

Conference further believes:

- 1. Current access agreements for universities and colleges do not focus on estrangement and thus do not collect information on estranged students.
- Estranged students often face struggle to find and/or afford accommodation that allows them to remain outside of term time which means they often end up 'couch-surfing' and potentially homeless for the summer months.
- 3. Estranged students in Further Education have little to no financial support often have to work, sometimes full time, in order to support themselves financially in order to continue their studies and complete their course.

- 1. To lobby universities and colleges to offer the following: financial support and bursaries, to offer rent guarantor schemes, provide specific student support services for prospective and current students, and appropriate training for staff members in order for them to support estranged students.
- 2. To lobby for universities and colleges to provide free/discounted summer month accommodation for estranged students.
- 3. To lobby UCAS on having special considerations for estranged student applicants.
- 4. To support Students' unions in creating support networks of estranged students.
- To work with the NUS Wales Women's Campaign, NUS Wales Black Students Campaign, NUS Wales Students with Disabilities Campaign, NUS Wales Welsh Language Campaign, elected NUS Wales Full-Time Officers, and relevant NUS UK Officers, such as VP FE to improve support for estranged students in FE.
- 6. To lobby universities and colleges to include estrangement in their access agreements.
- 7. To lobby Student Finance Wales to have more training in place to give correct guidance on the process for estranged students.
- 8. To work with Stand Alone and other organisations on finding ways to support and improve the lives of estranged students.

Motion 4: Decriminalise sex work now!

Submitted by: NUS Wales LGBT+ Committee

Conference believes:

- 1. Sex work refers (and is not limited) to escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcaming, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex (on and off the street).
- 2. The current regime of austerity and cuts to services and support have disproportionately affected LGBT+ people and LGBT+ people's services, and particularly LGBT+ trans women.
- 3. Whilst sex work is not illegal in the UK, sex workers who work on the street can be picked up on soliciting or anti-social behavioural order charges, and sex workers who work together indoors for safety can be charged with brothel keeping.
- 4. Sex work is work. Sex work is the exchange of money for labour, like any other job.
- 5. With the rise in living costs, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some LGBT+ students do sex work alongside their studies in order to survive month to month.
- 6. The stigma against sex work means that sex workers are less likely to seek out help and support if and when they need it.
- 7. Regardless of the reasons for entering into sex work, sex workers of all backgrounds deserve to have their rights protected and to be able to do their jobs safely.

Conference further believes:

- 1. NUS Wales has a proud history of standing for social justice and for the rights of workers across the world to do their jobs safely and to unionise, regardless of their student status.
- The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex (and introduce what is known as the 'Nordic Model' on prostitution) are often spearheaded by anti-choice, anti-LGBT+ right-wing fundamentalists, working with radical feminists.
- Criminalising the purchase of sex puts sex workers, especially those who work on the street, in danger. It is impossible to criminalise an aspect of someone's job without it having a negative impact on the person at work.

- 1. To support the full decriminalisation of sex work.
- 2. To support sex worker-led organisations, such as the English Collective of Prostitutes, Sex Worker Open University, and Sex Work Research Wales, who work to improve the lives of sex workers across the UK
- 3. For the elected NUS Wales LGBT+ Officers to campaign for sex work awareness and decriminalisation across campuses

Motion 5: We're all entitled to or to not woohoo

Submitted by: NUS Wales LGBT+ Committee

Conference believes:

- 1. Sex education in schools (where it happens) enforces heteronormative ideologies and cement societal views around gender and sexual identity.
- 2. Currently, sex education does not talk about relationships and does not cover the importance of consent.
- 3. Consent affects everyone no matter your sexual and/or gender identity.
- 4. The experiences and issues of LGBT+ people are erased from sex education and do not take into account the diverse backgrounds of students and staff within their institutions.
- 5. Sexual activities affect everyone in different ways no matter your sexual and/or your gender identity.
- 6. Sex education should be inclusive and representative of the student body. Equipping them with the knowledge of safe and healthy sex whether in a relationship or not.

Conference further believes:

- 1. The current system in place is insufficient and fails those students who identify as LGBT+
- 2. The Curriculum for Excellence allows Schools to ignore LGBT+ issues, and if touched upon completely ignores asexual and aromantic identities.
- 3. NUS Wales needs to get back to doing work on 'Liberating the Curriculum'.

- 1. To mandate the LGBT+ Campaign to work with the Women's campaign and the NUS Wales Full-Time Officers on their work on Sex and Relationship Education.
- To mandate the LGBT+ Campaign to support and work alongside the Women's Campaign, as well as the president and deputy president to lobby the Welsh Government to introduce legislation surrounding Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)
- 3. To work to ensure all identities within LGBT+ are discussed, including asexual and aromantic identities, within sex and relationship education, and other intersections in SRE
- 4. To ensure a strong emphasis on mandatory consent, no matter the setting
- 5. To help create resources for Student Associations/Unions to run campaigns locally and to support LGBT+ groups who want to work on this campaign

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Motion 6: Making Invisible Illnesses Visible

Submitted by: Swansea University Students' Union

Conference believes:

- 1. Research carried out by Stonewall, GMFA and GIRES establishes that LGBT+ individuals are more likely to experience health issues.
- 2. Invisible illnesses (such as fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, Raynaud's, diabetes etc.) place individuals at a higher risk of mental health issues. Individuals with these illnesses can often be misunderstood or their illnesses underestimated in their physical and mental toll.
- 3. LGBT+ individuals are at a higher risk of mental health issues in particular.

Conference further believes:

- 1. LGBT+ individuals with invisible illnesses face specific challenges when seeking help and advice. These can include:
 - a. Not being taken seriously by medical professionals as a result of discrimination. This can be crucial as invisible illness diagnosis is often more difficult than other illnesses.
 - b. Discriminating between often common mental health symptoms and invisible illness symptoms.
 - Perceived discrimination based on LGBT+ membership has been linked with physical and mental c. health issue development. Additionally, this discrimination has been linked to non-participation in health-seeking behaviours, such as medical service utilisation.
- 2. Invisible illness awareness is an under-represented facet of health awareness campaigning.

- 1. To support SUs in developing campaigns that target invisible illness awareness and support.
- 2. To encourage universities and colleges in providing education and support for those with invisible illnesses, to include:
 - a. Information about recognising invisible illnesses and obtaining diagnosis and subsequently dealing with a diagnosis.
 - b. Academic and financial support for those with invisible illnesses in the universities and colleges that do not already provide such.

 - c. The provision, directly or indirectly, of services that support individuals with invisible illnesses.d. Specific support for LGBT+ students, and information about how to provide this and inform individuals given to LGBT+ societies.

Motion 7: Standing in Solidarity with the LBGT+ Community of Northern Ireland

Submitted by: NUS Wales LGBT+ Committee

Conference Believes:

- 1. The nations (Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland) have an incredibly difficult time within NUS and often find ourselves treated as though we are not equal to England. The nations are often forgotten and lack any real support from the national campaign, especially the nation liberation campaigns.
- 2. The Northern Irish LGBT+ community lacks many of the provisions and rights which LGBT+ in Great Britain have, such as marriage equality.
- The DUP still holds a majority in the Northern Irish Assembly. The party has a history and mandate of LGBTphobia and has continually attempted to pass laws which are damaging to the LGBT+ community of Northern Ireland.

Conference Further Believes:

- 1. Despite being still having the biggest share of the assembly, the DUP no longer have the necessary number of MLAs which is takes to use the Petition of Concern, meaning that now is a very important time to begin campaigning as they are no longer to block votes with their own party members alone.
- 2. Currently the NUS-USI LGBT+ Officer receives no funds for running campaigns from either NUS or USI.
- 3. There has repeatedly been a lack of presence from Northern Irish universities and colleges at NUS UK LGBT+ conference.

- 1. To offer the assistance of the NUS Wales LGBT+ Campaign to the NUS-USI LGBT+ Campaign in the form of campaigns support and funding where available at the discretion of the NUS Wales LGBT+ Officers.
- 2. To offer support to the NUS-USI LGBT+ Officer as fellow nation's officers and part of the NUS UK LGBT+ Committee.

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