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Policy

Policy passed at National Conference 2014	27
Policy passed at National Conference 2015	42
Policy passed at National Conference 2016	50

Purpose of this document

This document contains all the policy currently in effect for the NUS NEC until National Conference 2017.

Policy Lapse

Policy Lapses in 2 circumstances

1. If a subsequent policy over-rides it.
2. After 3 years unless National Conference votes to renew it.

Policy passed at National Conference 2014 will lapse at the end of National Conference 2017.

What You Need To Do

If you are considering submitting policy to National Conference you should first check whether any policy is currently 'live' for that issue and whether you need to change the National Union's current stance on that area of work.

If you require this document in an alternative format contact executiveoffice@nus.org.uk

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NEC Policy Passed 2013/14

Meeting 1: 15 July 2013

Motion 1 | Migration rules: the noose tightens

NEC Believes:

1. Students from Croatia, which joined the European Union on July 1st 2013, now face "transitional arrangements" restricting their right to work similarly to the restrictions previously condemned by NUS on Romanian & Bulgarian students;
2. Nine months after London Met's loss of Highly Trusted Sponsor status, some London Met students still await the return of their passports and therefore are unable to leave the country;
3. Shortly before it was wound up and moved to direct Home Office control, UKBA were found to have consistently missed targets for processing visas;
4. An additional 6% has been cut from the Home Office's budget in George Osborne's spending review, meanwhile outsourcing of Home Office functions to scandal-ridden companies like G4S, Serco and Capita continues;
5. International student numbers in FE are plummeting;
6. The Home Office intend to introduce £3,000 bonds for visitors and students from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ghana & Nigeria in November, arguing visitors from these countries are at particular risk of violating visa conditions or using public services like the NHS. This list of countries does not match the list of countries of origin of people in the UK most likely to violate visa conditions;
7. The attacks on the education landscape combined with the migration rules further disadvantages international students who define into any liberation campaign for example the multitude of barriers for disabled international students who, if from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ghana or Nigeria face £3000 bonds for themselves, £3000 if they bring a carer and the additional support and equipment costs that the HEI's and the UK local and national government refuses to fund.
8. The government have consistently failed to provide any evidence that "benefit tourism" is occurring in significant amounts.
9. Access to health care is a basic human right.

NEC Further believes:

1. We have no reason to think the government will treat Croatians any better than the prejudiced, xenophobic way they treat Romanians and Bulgarians;
2. Continued cuts & outsourcing are contributing to flagrantly unacceptable visa & permit delays for students;
3. The singling out of nationals of six South Asian and African countries as less trustworthy than other students leaves no doubt UK migration policy has a racist character. The bonds are likely to disrupt the family lives of students from these countries and penalise students not from wealthy backgrounds;
4. Increasing the bureaucratic burden on people coming to the UK through English-language tests, bond schemes, permits and other means, while cutting budgets and outsourcing to unaccountable private sector firms, makes racist & xenophobic treatment of students by the government more likely;
5. This takes place against the background of a political climate in which increasingly cynical attempts are made to exploit the legitimate anger and uncertainty caused by austerity and economic crisis by diverting it to self-destructive ends through increased oppression of migrants, Muslims and Black people.

6. Xenophobic and racist rhetoric is being ratcheted up as the 2014 European elections approach. NUS must actively challenge these dangerous ideas, as well as the brutality of austerity which creates the fertile soil of scarcity and desperation in which they may grow.
7. Government proposals to charge migrants for access to the NHS are capricious and unnecessary. There is little evidence that the £30 million savings that the government are proposing are likely to be achieved by excluding migrants from free healthcare. The projected cuts would represent less than 1% of the NHS budget if achieved, but will have a significant impact on international students.
8. Despite paper commitments to granting leave to remain in the UK on compassionate grounds, the UKBA and Home Office have often deported recent graduates whose lives depend on access to advanced health care which they cannot obtain in their home countries.

NEC Resolves:

1. We will work more closely with ARISS (Association of Romanian International Students' Societies), SAND (Students' Association of Nigerians in Diaspora) and other international student networks to push back against visa restrictions;
2. We call for the reversal of cutbacks and privatisation of Home Office functions;
3. We demand an anti-racist migration policy in the UK. We oppose the introduction of bonds, work permits and the Home Office-run English language interview scheme;
4. We will actively encourage in-work students of all backgrounds to join and be involved in trade unions. This is especially important for international students, whom employers sometimes seek to super-exploit as a pool of cheap labour, or even as part of attempts to weaken existing union agreements, for example through the use of agency staff;
5. NUS will ensure that any and all work undertaken against migration rules does not leave behind those who's intersectional identities places them at further disadvantage.
6. To oppose all proposals to exclude migrants to the UK from free-at-the-point-of-use access to the NHS.

Motion 2 | Affiliation

NEC Believes

1. Collaborating closely with migrant groups and supporting their campaigns is important in combating growing anti-immigration sentiments.
2. Notes previous motions on migration.

NEC Resolves

1. To affiliate to the Migrants Rights Network.
2. To affiliate to the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

Motion 3 | Anti-Racism and Anti-fascism

NEC Believes:

1. Far right mobilisations, such as those of the English Defense League's (EDL) and the British National Party (BNP) are a threat to society.
2. It is a national priority for the student movement to stop fascists from winning MEP seats by mobilising the progressive majority to vote.
3. The student movement must never give a platform to fascists because fascism seeks to eliminate free speech and democracy, and annihilate its opponents and minorities.
4. Giving fascists a platform in the student movement destroys the safe spaces our campuses must be for Black, Jewish, Muslim, women, LGBT and disabled people.
5. Racism is a scourge in society, including on campuses, it must be opposed.
6. Discrimination and harassment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities – among the most marginalised minorities in the UK – is considered an "acceptable" form of racism.
7. The violent eviction of 83 families from Dale Farm, which was home to almost 1,000 people for more than 30 years. This cost Basildon council £7 million!

8. More than 90% of Travellers planning applications are initially rejected by local government authorities, compared to 20% overall.
9. Basildon council recently voted to take 'direct action' against families living at the roadside near Dale Farm.
10. While the BNP and EDL are in disarray, the far right remains a serious threat, taking inspiration from the Front National in France and the rise of Golden Dawn in Greece.
11. Fascist views towards disabled people is evermore becoming mainstream with disability hate crimes reported in England and Wales at its highest levels since records began and some police force areas reporting more than a 160% year on year increase. This has been fuelled by fascists using public platforms, for example, to advocate for the compulsory abortion of disabled foetuses.
12. The dramatic increase in racist, mainly anti-Muslim, incidents and attacks since the brutal murder of Lee Rigby by Islamists in Woolwich.
13. The launching of groups around the 'Anti-Fascist Network' by activists dissatisfied with Unite Against Fascism, including South London Anti-Fascists, which has played a major role in recent mobilisations. antifascistnetwork.wordpress.com
14. That there is an urgent need to us to mobilise students to fight Islamophobia, racism and fascism, including on counter-demonstrations against the EDL, BNP and similar groups.
15. That student unions and student activists should contact mosques and Muslim community organisations to offer support for self-defence.
16. That we must also oppose attacks on civil liberties, for instance the resurrection of the Communications Data Bill or "snooper's charter".
17. That the media's coverage of the Woolwich killing has contrasted with its usual lack of interest in racist attacks.
18. That the main victims of Islamism, both in this extreme and in more moderate forms, are Muslims and ex-Muslims - women, LGBT people, secularists and atheists, left-wingers and dissident/critical people in Muslim communities.
19. That everything said about anti-Roma and Traveller racism in the motion remitted from national conference is correct.

NEC Further Believes:

1. NUS must actively campaign against racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and the far right as these are dangers which threaten the welfare of millions of our members.
2. The BNP is a fascist organisation which stands for an "all white Britain", a goal which can only be achieved by violence, the annihilation of entire groups of people and the ending of democracy.
3. BNP leader Nick Griffin and Andrew Brons are standing for re-election to the European Parliament in 2014. It should be a national priority for the student movement to stop fascists from winning MEP seats by mobilising the progressive majority to vote.
4. The student movement must never give a platform to fascists because fascism seeks to eliminate free speech, democracy and annihilate its opponents and minorities.
5. The lesson of the 1930s was that the Nazis used violence to gain power and carry out a Holocaust. They slaughtered millions – in the gas chambers and concentration camps – of Jewish people, Eastern Europeans, communists and trade unionists, Romani, LGBT and disabled people.
6. Giving fascists a platform in the student movement destroys the safe spaces our campuses must be for Black, Jewish, Muslim, women, LGBT and disabled people.
7. The racism and disadvantage experienced by Roma and Traveller is a disgrace.
8. The eviction of Traveller sites is a form of discrimination which results in people being forced onto the road against their will and children being pulled out of education.
9. Conditions feeding the far right include:
 - Widespread racism, encouraged by a government and press promoting the idea that immigration is a major
 - cause of social problems;
 - Huge cuts and perceptions of a struggle for scarce resources, which the far right actively exploits;
 - A labour movement failing to challenge narratives around multiculturalism having failed.
10. We need an anti-fascist movement which:

- Is genuinely democratic, allowing activists to debate the way forward;
- Challenges all racism, including Islamophobia and anti-semitism, and campaigns for migrants' rights;
- Mobilises to drive fascists off the streets, instead of calling for state bans;
- Unites workers and communities for demands to undercut the demagoguery of the far right: black and white, all religions and none, British-born and migrant – unite and fight for jobs, homes and services for all.

11. That there are a number of problems with Unite Against Fascism

- Its lack of internal democracy and accountability, including for the behaviour of senior members (in particular the Martin Smith affair);
- Its downplaying of women's oppression and LGBT oppression in the name of 'unity';
- Its failure to deal with broader political issues feeding the growth of racism and fascism.

12. We need local anti-fascist campaigns and a national anti-fascist network which

- Is genuinely democratic, allowing activists to debate the way forward;
- Challenges all racism, including Islamophobia and anti-semitism; campaigns for migrants' rights; and actively takes up, rather than downplaying, LGBT and women's oppression;
- Seeks to unite workers and communities for demands to undercut the demagoguery of the far right: black and white, all religions and none, British-born and migrant – unite and fight for jobs, homes and services for all.

NEC Resolves:

1. To actively challenge racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and fascism on our campuses and in our communities.
2. To campaign for no platform for fascists within NUS or in our Students' Unions.
3. Launch a massive student voter registration drive as part of campaign to get Griffin and Brons out of the European Parliament in 2014.
4. Reaffirm our support for NUS organising an annual Anti-Racism/Anti-Fascism Conference and providing adequate resources for this work.
5. Continue working with Searchlight, One Society Many Cultures and Love Music Hate Racism.
6. To work with self-organised Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups, as well as the Traveller Solidarity Network.
7. To produce dedicated NUS campaigning materials based on these arguments, including a campaign guide for Constituent Members and student activists.
8. To establish contact and organise discussions about working together with the Anti-Fascist Network.

Motion 6 | Defend the NHS

NEC believes

1. That the fight to defend the NHS is extremely important, and that it is our duty to mobilise students as part of it.
2. That the recent government's announcement of proposals to introduce charges for non-EU migrants to access NHS services constitutes a further attack on the public character of the NHS;
3. That these proposals are essentially xenophobic in character, and are likely to disproportionately affect international students in the UK;
4. That is fundamental that any campaign to defend the NHS also includes a firm and principled opposition to any proposal to introduce charges for NHS treatment for foreigners.
5. That the fight to defend wider health and care services under the control of local authorities and the department of health is extremely important particularly within the context of a lack of media coverage. It is our duty to mobilise and educate students about the numerous cuts to services such as social care and services for the disabled.

NEC resolves

1. To support the 29 September demonstration in defence of the NHS at Tory party conference called by Unite the Union, and work with constituent members to mobilise students.
2. To publicly oppose any proposals to introduce charges for NHS treatment for migrants, and to include opposition to these proposals as a major component of any broader campaign to defend the NHS as a public and free health service.

Fight for Labour to carry out its policy: rebuild the NHS!

We are campaigning for the Labour Party to develop and fight for the policy on the NHS agreed by its conference, and for the next Labour government to carry it out.

Many Constituency Labour Parties submitted policy to the 2012 party conference calling for a clear commitment to repealing the Tories' Health and Social Care Act, reversing privatisation and marketisation, and restoring the NHS as a public service. The conference passed a composite resolution based on these motions unanimously.

We welcome commitment to repeal the Act, but reject arguments against 'top down reorganisation'. The Health and Social Care Act represented a comprehensive reorganisation to subordinate the NHS to market forces. We want a comprehensive reorganisation of the health service in order to save and restore it.

We want a return to the founding principles of the NHS: quality healthcare for all on the basis of need, as a right, in a publicly owned, publicly funded, publicly provided and publicly accountable system. To achieve that, we will campaign for and demand Labour campaigns for:

1. Complete repeal of the Health and Social Care Act and its associated ?competition regulations?.
2. Abolition of the new provision allowing 49 percent private beds in NHS hospitals.
3. Restoration of the Secretary of State's duty to provide a comprehensive service.
4. NHS organisations to be the preferred provider of care in all cases.
5. Reversal of the Tories' funding cuts and provision of adequate funding.
6. Abolition of the obscenely wasteful and inefficient internal market/purchaser-provider split.
7. Cancellation of Private Finance Initiative debts, which are dragging down many hospitals and NHS trusts; replace PFI with direct funding.
8. Halting and reversal of privatisation and outsourcing at every level.
9. Abolition of Foundation Trusts, replacement of CCGs by democratic local health authorities.
10. Decent, national pay, terms and conditions and pensions for NHS workers, and a democratic voice for them in how the service is run.

We reject the argument that there is no money in society to pay for restoring the health service. The NHS was created at a time when British society as a whole was much poorer than now. Taxation of rising dividend payments and the incomes of the rich, and using the wealth of the nationalised banks for social purposes, are potentially rich sources of funds. In addition, abolishing market mechanisms and PFI would save many billions.

We will work with members of the Labour Party, health workers' organisations, the broader trade union movement and NHS campaigners to defend our health service and fight for these policies.

Emergency Motion 1 | CSR

NEC believes:

1. The Comprehensive Spending Review for 2015/16 announced on 26 June 2013 involved cuts to the BIS budget including:
 - a. Axing the £150 million National Scholarship Programme
 - b. A further £45 million cut to the HEFCE teaching budget
 - c. A real-terms cut to student maintenance grants
 - d. £260 million cuts to FE provision
 - e. The CSR also announced new burdens on jobseekers including:
 - f. Longer waits for eligibility
 - g. Increased frequency of signing in
 - h. Sanctions for non-English speakers who fail to attend courses to improve their English
 - i. Requiring single parents with children aged over 3 to work
 - j. Requirement to annually re-verify any claim that is conditional on specific circumstances
2. The measures announced in this austerity CSR will fall particularly hard on poorer young people and graduates trying to afford their education or seek employment following a qualification.
3. The government is also attempting to sell the student loan book into the hands of private finance.
4. The consequence of a student loan book sale will be reduced accountability of government to students and incentivising changes to the terms and conditions on which loans are offered that are unfavourable to students.

NEC resolves:

1. To strongly condemn the government for punishing the most vulnerable students and graduates for the failures of unregulated private finance.
2. To work to make the case for public investment in education, particularly further education whose students have been hit the hardest during the term of this government.
3. To lobby ministers across the UK to recognise and address the negative impact of the current public spending settlement and make redress.
4. To work to expose the combined impacts of a punishing bureaucracy and a faltering graduate job market on student and graduate jobseekers.
5. To oppose the sale of the student loan book under any terms that harm students.
6. To continue to lobby for the terms and conditions of student loans to be fixed in law.

Meeting 2: 17 September 2013

Motion 1 | GCSE and A Level Reform

NEC Believes:

1. The Tory-led Government is proposing a series of reforms to GCSE and A Level qualifications that seek to force our education system back to the 1970s.
2. Within the GCSE qualification; modular courses will be scrapped, coursework significantly reduced and exams taken purely in the summer term, only at the end of two years.
3. The opportunity to re-sit will also be curtailed, reducing the opportunity to re-sit and capping re-sits at one per subject.
4. These changes will come into effect for English, maths, sciences, history and geography from September 2013.
5. The grading structure is also set to change to a numbering system from 1-8, with number 8 equivalent to an A* and 1 to a G.
6. From September 2013 students will no longer be able to sit A level exams in January, in either their first or second year of A level studies. A levels will still be examined unit by unit, but all exams will be taken in the summer exam period.
7. There are also proposals to change the structure of assessment within A levels so that the qualifications are fully linear. This means all assessment will be undertaken at the end of the course, rather than at the end of each year of A level study.
8. As a result the AS qualification will be 'de-coupled' from an A level making it a standalone qualification.
9. There are also significant proposed changes to subject content in GCSE and A levels. For instance GCSE History will have a reduced weighting towards world history and GCSE English literature will no longer contain an element on world literature.
10. Most recently the controlled assessments on 'speaking and listening' have been removed from English and English Language GCSEs. This change has been brought in more quickly than the other reforms in an immediate bid 'to protect standards'. This will impact students in the middle of their GCSEs, who have already completed this aspect of the assessment criteria.
11. Michael Gove's ideologically driven reforms will reverse the huge steps taken in our education system that have allowed many people, particularly liberation students to succeed.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That subject content alterations across GCSEs and A levels could have serious implications for liberation students due to the removal and marginalisation of significant and diverse voices.
2. The changes in qualification structure could also adversely affect students who struggle with assessment by exam due to their educational support needs. The removal, and capping, of re-sits could further impact students for a number of reasons, particularly if they have to deal with significant upheaval during their education.
3. These reforms will not only impede the success of students from liberation backgrounds but all who take GCSE and A level qualifications. There are serious concerns that that the proposed reforms will not adequately prepare students for future study or employment. Their focus is too narrow and has a too limited sense of how students should learn and be assessed.
4. Coursework and controlled assessment are essential to building a student's research and presentation skills. It is these skills which can be more valuable, for further study or employment, than the ability to re-call vast quantities of information.
5. In reference to the recent removal of 'speaking and listening' from English and English Language GCSEs, there is further concern that qualifications are being altered in a seemingly inconsistent and irrational way. In this instance whilst students are in the middle of their GCSE qualification and have already completed the assessment objectives in this area.
6. A variety of sector experts in HE have also stated that they believe the reforms are detrimental to students who want to move on to University.

7. These reforms will lead to the breakup of 'three country regulation', meaning different exams will be sat by students in Wales and Northern Ireland to those sat in England. This could cause disparity between progression choices for students and workers who move across the nations.

NEC Resolves:

1. To utilise the research already done with the membership on both GCSE and A level reform to lobby Michael Gove, demanding he abandon these reforms.
2. To hold Michael Gove publically to account on the reforms proposed and made, specifically highlighting reforms that will have a detrimental effect on students with a liberation background.
3. To submit responses to the current GCSE government consultations highlighting the views and concerns from the membership.
4. To produce a campaigns resource for colleges to use during Freshers to engage students to critique their recent GCSE experience, and then to further lobby their MP's locally on the issue.
5. To work with trade unions in the education sector who also believe these reforms are an attack on fairness and equality.

Motion 2 | Protecting welfare of international students

NEC Believes:

1. International students have come under attack from all sides in recent years, and this has most recently included:
 - a. Proposals for landlords to check the immigration status of their prospective tenants
 - b. Proposals for migrants to the UK to be required to purchase insurance or pay a levy in order to access NHS healthcare
2. NUS has been active in opposing each of these proposals and believes that international students should be entitled to a hassle-free and supportive experience of study in the UK.
3. International students can find themselves vulnerable, particularly in relation to housing where not being able to provide a UK-based guarantor can lead to them being charged six months' or more rent up front.
4. There have been a number of private companies emerging seeking to exploit these vulnerabilities for profit, as well as a number of scams where international students are asked to pay significant sums of money for property that isn't available or doesn't exist.
5. International students should be entitled to access free healthcare in recognition of the significant financial contribution they make to the UK, through fees, taxation and expenditure. To expect them to make additional contributions for access to the NHS is politically motivated, arbitrary and unfair.

NEC Resolves:

1. To continue to be active in lobbying the government to reconsider its harmful proposals in relation to the NHS and landlord immigration checks
2. To ensure that the housing issues facing international students are examined in detail through the upcoming research project
3. To help students' unions to feel equipped with the information they need to campaign for their institution to improve support for international students
4. To work with other relevant organisations to lobby for online property websites to be active in preventing their sites from being used to promote property scams

Motion 3 | Keep FE Teachers Qualified

NEC Believes:

1. 'The Further Education Teachers' Qualifications (England) Regulations 2007' are in the process of being revoked.

2. The existence of the regulations in secondary legislation means that their revocation does not necessitate a vote in parliament.
3. Further Education caters to a diverse demographic, as well as multiple subject disciplines.
4. Given this diversity of provision, it is crucial that subject and/or industry knowledge is complemented by sound knowledge and experience of teaching pedagogy, rooted in formal teacher training.
5. The revocation of FE teaching regulations will result in a disparity between teaching standards in colleges and teaching standards in schools, where teaching qualifications are mandatory.
6. A consultation conducted by BIS (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) suggests that
 - a. 74% of industry professionals and sector bodies believe that teachers and trainers in FE should have a professional teaching qualification
 - b. 80% of industry professionals and sector bodies believe that, by deregulating the FE teaching profession, there will be unintended and adverse consequences for the sector
7. That the timing of this revocation was brought forward unjustifiably, and ultimately coincided with the week of A Level results, which has resulted in limited media exposure for the issue.
8. This reform is part of the Tory-led government's wider disregard for further education and shows how little they care about standards in FE.
9. That whilst qualifications need to have strong links to their respective employment area, this does not necessitate deprofessionalising the entire further education workforce.
10. All students should be predominantly taught by a professional with a teaching qualification, and that links to employment sectors can feature in qualifications in other ways.

NEC Resolves:

1. To write to the Secondary Legislative Committee before Sept 16th to raise our concerns with the removal of the need for qualifications to teach in FE using evidence gathered from NUS' membership.
2. To hold the Minister for Skills publically to account on for this decision, and to publically question why the views of the sector have been ignored.
3. To work with sector bodies to produce a pledge to which colleges and training providers can sign up to, advising on the qualifications, training and industry knowledge FE teachers and trainers ought to possess, and what colleges should do to support CPD for their staff.

Motion 4 | Working with UCU

NEC Believes:

1. University & College Union (UCU) represents over 100,000 lecturers & academic staff in higher & further education across the UK.
2. UCU's May 2013 congress voted to invite collaboration with NUS:
 - a. to "work with the NUS to highlight the importance of safeguarding equality for staff and students in the face of cuts & contractual changes";
 - b. to "hold a joint conference with NUS on the defence of HE against neo-liberalism in 2014";
 - c. to "campaign for public education";
 - d. to "reject consumerist approaches which divide students and staff";
 - e. "to work with NUS to investigate the relationship between the provision of accommodation by universities and local accommodation prices and if appropriate, campaign to promote the building of affordable student accommodation by universities."
 - f. "to seek to join with NUS [...] to lobby to protect the right of unemployed and low paid students to free and resourced education"
 - g. "to work with the NUS as a joint campaign" "to improve provision at local levels to the best of the public sector and for improved provision (underwritten by employers, not funding bodies) for staff employed on casualised contracts"
3. UCU also voted "to call a conference in the autumn term around the theme 'From the cradle to the grave - Defending education for all', to approach all education unions (including the NUS) and

campaigning education groups to ask for their support in organising the conference and inviting them to provide speakers and ideas on how we can launch a national campaign.”

4. UCU voted to “note[] the NUS's recent campaigning on postgraduates who teach” and in response will “design and implement a low subscription regime for PhD students and other low earners that would not be linked to the members' highly volatile income, with an aim of securing and developing the next generation of UCU activists.”
5. UCU voted to “note[] the recent NUS report: 'That's What She said: Women students' experiences of 'Lad culture' in Higher Education'” and in response to “work with the NUS in developing joint campus strategies and campaigns for identifying and addressing the serious problems that 'Lad Culture' has on many female students' educational experiences and its continuing effects throughout their lives”
6. UCU are consulting on a response to UCEA's offer on national pay & conditions with an eye to rejection, with potential industrial action in Autumn 2013. FE lecturers in England may also vote on industrial action this Autumn.

NEC Further believes:

1. Previous cooperation between NUS and UCU, for example on the 2010 compact preparing for Demo-Lition and the 2013 joint statement on workload, has been fruitful.
2. NUS Postgraduate Campaign overwhelmingly supports closer work with UCU.
3. Government attacks on education affect not just us now but future students for potentially decades to come. Small-scale disruption now pales in comparison to the long-term harm of cuts, privatisation and marketisation.

NEC Resolves:

1. We accept UCU's Invitation to work together conferences on:
 - a. Lifelong education and
 - b. Opposing neo-liberalism
2. We will strengthen our links with UCU, which supports free education, in jointly campaigning for public education & against the students-as-customers model of student-institution relations.
3. We thank UCU for recognising NUS's work on postgraduates who teach & will investigate facilitating routes to UCU membership for postgraduate members of NUS through NUS Digital & other means
4. We will share upcoming housing research with UCU & invite their cooperation in developing the housing models agreed at NUS 2013 conference
5. In developing our position on education funding in the 2015 general election we will work with our lecturers and the broader trade union movement

Motion 5 | Syria

NEC Believes:

1. The Syrian conflict is messy and complicated, and neither side have much regard for civilian casualties. A humanitarian crisis has ensued, with the current death toll at 100,000 and over 1.5 million refugees.
2. The use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime is barbaric.
3. In response to the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime against civilians, On August 27, U.S. Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel announced that, should President Obama give the order, the U.S. military is ready to launch attacks on Syria
4. On 29th August 2013, British MPs rejected a Government motion to support the principle of military intervention in Syria by 285 votes to 272
5. The student movement has a proud history of debating the politics of the wider world, something to be protected and encouraged.
6. A deep concern for the humanitarian crisis and solidarity with those affected by it does not translate on the NUS taking a simplistic position on intervention
7. Without a formal steer from membership on such an emotional and highly charged conflict, we are not able to accurately represent the membership on the issue of intervention.

8. Bashar Assad's murderous dictatorship is responsible for mass killing, torture on a vast scale and an enormous humanitarian disaster inside Syria, with whole towns reduced to rubble, two million refugees, four million internally displaced, seven million in immediate need of humanitarian aid, and over a hundred thousand dead. Syria's rulers have used huge violence to protect their wealth and privileges, while reinforcing and exploiting sectarian divisions in order to cling onto power.
9. Now it looks likely that the regime has used chemical weapons against civilians.
10. An important factor keeping Assad in power is large-scale foreign intervention: by Russia, which has kept up a flow of weapons, and Iran and Hezbollah, which have forces on the ground. We call for an end to Russia's arming of Assad and the withdrawal of Iranian and Hezbollah forces from Syria.

NEC Resolves:

1. To maintain at this stage no position on intervention.
2. Mandate the Vice President (Society & Citizenship) to review this in light of evidence that may emerge and bring the issue back to the NEC.
3. To continue to support Syrian students in the UK, facing financial difficulty and immigration problems as a result.
4. To mandate the VP Society & Citizenship to report on what NUS and constituent members can do to support student, workers', human rights and other democratic organisations in Syria.
5. To continue campaigning in defence of Syrian students in the UK.

Motion 11 | A fair year's work deserves a fair years pay

NEC Believes:

1. That currently there are two part-time LGBT Officers, an Open Place Officer and a Women's Place Officer. This comes from LGBT Conference taking the decision to ensure a representative LGBT movement and splitting the LGBT Officer.
2. That the success of the LGBT campaign has meant that in recent history it has become apparent that the LGBT Officers work beyond their part-time hours.
3. The work of the LGBT Officers means it is beneficial to the campaign to have the officers located in London, in terms of meeting with stakeholders, working with other NUS officers, being available for national action and in close proximity to government.
4. That to live in London on a part-time wage is practically impossible, especially when doing close to full time work with irregular hours.
5. "LGBO (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Other) Students were more likely to be in debt, and higher amounts of debt, than their heterosexual counterparts." Pound in your Pocket.
<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/news/article/38530/Pound-in-Your-Pocket-Briefing-Lesbian-gay-and-bisexual-students/>
6. In Evaluating Estrangement it was highlighted that LGBT students had been facing estrangement, possibly due to societal views in regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.
Evaluating Estrangement 2010-2011
http://www.poundinyourpocket.org.uk/downloads/Evaluating_Estrangement.pdf
7. Having a part-time paid position will exclude many from standing in election. Including but not limited to students with dependants, students who are not out to their family – and couldn't live at home.
8. That the Liberation officers increase the diversity of the full time officer team and the NEC, and are often elected directly from education and are less likely to have been sabbatical officers.
9. NUS has a strong history of championing workers rights running campaigns around both the minimum wage and more recently the living wage.
10. Liberation is should be embedded in the work of NUS and that this cannot be achieved without liberation officers
11. The NEC is responsible for submitting estimates of expenditure to Conference and should submit estimates in the year ahead that address these issues

NEC Resolves:

1. That the estimates for 2013-14 should reflect sufficient budget allocation for the LGBT campaign to allow both of the LGBT officers to be full time.

Meeting 3: 20 November 2013

Motion 1 | 1984 Yes It's a Genocide Campaign

NEC Believes:

1. From the night of the 31st October 1984 till the evening of the 3rd November 1984, 8,000 Sikhs were systematically targeted and killed across India with over 3,000 in the capital city of Delhi alone (figures from Mishra Commission 1986)
2. The 2011 WikiLeaks cable leaks revealed that the United States was convinced of the complicity of the then Indian government, calling it "one of the saddest and darkest moments in recent Indian history" and approvingly quoting a commission report which found the Indian government in power at the time responsible "for not just allowing them to happen, but actively organizing the pogroms".
3. In 2009 on the 25th Anniversary of the mass killings, Amnesty International said, "the various agencies responsible for carrying out the investigations have failed to carry out the most cursory of tasks – including recording eyewitness and survivor statements."
4. In 2011, Human Rights Watch an international non-governmental organisation that conducts research and advocacy on human rights and has its headquarters in New York, reported the Government of India had "yet to prosecute those responsible for the mass killing."
5. That genocide, whether committed in times of war or in times of peace, is a crime under international law and that as a working student body we should aim to educate and campaign in order to halt and prevent any form of genocide now and in the future.

NEC Resolves:

6. To endorse the campaign undertaken by the National Sikh Students Alliance in conjunction with the Voices for Freedom and Sikhs for Justice organisations which are asking the UN to investigate the killings of Sikhs in 1984 and to declare it a genocide, as defined in Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
7. To mandate the VP Society and Citizenship to formally write to the National Sikh Students Alliance pledging the support of the NUS to the '1984 Yes It's A Genocide' Campaign.

Motion 2 | New Deal for the Next Generation

NEC Believes:

1. The next UK general election is due to take place on Thursday 7 May 2015, with local council and European Parliament elections due to take place on Thursday 22 May 2014
2. At the 2010 general election, just 44 per cent of those aged 18 to 24 voted, compared 76 per cent of the over 65s
3. The introduction of individual voter registration (IER) threatens to further reduce the number of students and young people voting
4. The gulf in voting levels between the generations leaves young people losing out in policy terms
5. This feeling of powerlessness and precariousness is increasingly common among the rising generation, squeezed by global recession and biting financial pressures, uncertain about its prospects and its future
6. Students in colleges and universities make up the majority of the next generation.
7. We too often feel let down by politicians who failed to speak on our behalf in a world where the odds are already being steadily stacked against us

NEC Further Believes:

1. The Intergenerational Generation's Fairness Index takes into account nine indicators that most affect young people's lives and outlook unemployment, housing, pensions, debt, participation in democracy, health, income, the environment and education
2. With the Intergenerational Fairness Index set at 100 in the year 2000, it rose in its measure of unfairness from 82 in 1990 to 129 in 2012, and the 2013 index shows that young people's prospects have again worsened in the last year due to rising unemployment and living costs
3. The evidence from Ipsos Mori public opinion polling shows more than two thirds of people believe the UK government does not adequately consider future generations in the decisions By championing students and students' unions, unlocking our huge potential, and using our individual and collective power, we have a golden opportunity now to come together and to act on our own initiative to create a fairer, more prosperous society
4. it makes today, while only 5 per cent believe it considers them too much
5. NUS can build on existing public support for bettering the interests of the next generation

NEC Resolves:

1. To forge and campaign for a new deal for the next generation across the themes of education, work and community
2. To welcome the signing of a new campaigning partnership between NUS and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and its identification of ten areas in which the student and trade union movements will work together on in the year ahead
3. To work with external allies and partners to maximise voter registration and electoral participation among young people and students to ensure their voices are heard.

Motion 3 | Community Organising

NEC Believes:

1. Communities are where students live and belong
2. Students and students' unions are vital members of their communities, contributing through volunteering, social action, clubs, societies and campaigning
3. The next general election is due to take place on Thursday 7 May 2015, with local council and European elections due to take place on Thursday 22 May 2014
4. The general election will be won for students only if we get our communities on side
5. The evidence from opinion polling conducted by YouGov shows that colleges and universities lag behind elderly care, the NHS, schools and police as public spending priorities
6. We will win support not merely by special pleading for students, but finding the issues that unite students, workers, parents, families and the wider public, together in our communities
7. The student movement must be ready to talk about the issues that matter to the wider public and ready to take action to have the biggest possible impact on those who are seeking election, be they from any political party or none.
8. NUS and students' unions are well positioned to build on our existing organising work, including on 'Activism' and 'I am the Change'

NEC Resolves:

1. To broaden and deepen our work with communities by creating new arenas for social action, civic participation and democratic engagement by building effective campaigns for change
2. To deliver regional campaigns training and support for students' unions to develop activists and build skills for change across the student movement
3. To launch the 'We Are The Change community organising academy

4. To build NUS' community organising capacity at regional level across the UK
5. To develop 10 regional organising hubs focused on voter registration and critical policy issues

Motion 4 | A higher education sector that works for students

NEC Believes:

1. In the absence of a Higher Education Bill for England the Westminster government has introduced a number of regulatory changes in the higher education system including:
 - a. A new system of student number controls designed to enable institutions with higher levels of demand to grow their student numbers
 - b. New processes for approval of specific courses designated for student support so that more private and alternative providers can compete for students
 - c. A single operating framework for all higher education providers that receive public money including through student loans or who hold degree awarding powers.
2. The operating framework at present does not include a requirement for institutions awarding degrees or accessing student loan money to fund a students' union or subscribe to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator or to the Office for Fair Access.
3. From 2014 providers with courses designated for student support will be subject to controls on their student numbers.
4. Significant risks identified in the new regime include:
 - a. A more competitive, marketised environment between different providers of higher education characterised by increased spend on recruitment and marketing rather than educational opportunity and learning and teaching, and rewards for institutions who are well positioned to compete on reputation, prestige or price, none of which are an adequate proxy for education quality.
 - b. A 'race to the bottom' in ensuring students are able to exercise what we consider to be among their most fundamental rights including that of independent representation by a students' union and independent recourse for complaints and appeals.
 - c. Threats to specialist or less market-friendly providers or subjects which could lead to significant course closures or institutional restructures or financial collapse, seriously harming access to higher education and putting students' education at risk.
5. The higher education operating framework for England as it is currently constituted does not take sufficient account of these risks.
6. Participation of a range of different providers in the higher education system is not itself the problem; the problem is constraints on student numbers, the destabilising effects of excessive competition and the tolerance for predatory, for-profit providers who are accountable to shareholders rather than students.

NEC Resolves:

1. To lobby for the sector to adopt the following as part of its regulatory codes:
 - a. The right of all students to independent representation by a students' union, guild, association or representative body
 - b. The right of all students to fair access and to have their financial and personal circumstances to be taken into account at the point of application
 - c. The right of all students to independent recourse for complaints and appeals.
 - d. Protections for students in the case of course closure or institutional failure.
 - e. Recognition of the risks around regional provision and subject spread, and a means by which those risks can be mitigated to ensure that a diversity of subjects will be available to students in regions across England

2. To condemn education providers, organisations and individuals who exploit students in order to extract profit from the provision of higher education for the benefit of shareholders or corporate investors and condemn the sale of the Student Loan Book.
3. To adopt a principled position in favour of increases to student numbers during the next Parliament so that expansion of the sector can meet demand in the system, recognising that increase may well come in the form of more higher level vocational provision or flexible higher learning opportunities rather than traditional full-time higher education.
4. To create a specific support offer for students' unions that are having to deal with their institution experiencing financial hardship, restructure or course closures, enabling them to make good decisions that accurately represent their membership, protect students and support institutional and subject sustainability.

Motion 5 | Tackling the rising cost of energy bills in our communities

NEC believes:

1. UK energy bills are spiralling, with analysis from the TUC published in October 2013 showing that gas and electricity prices have increased by 152 per cent over the last decade, four times faster than inflation (38 per cent), even before energy companies' recent rises have been taken into account.
2. Four of the 'Big Six' energy companies have already announced steep, above inflation price rises this year, with the others expected to follow suit.
3. NUS analysis shows that undergraduate students in England face an average shortfall between available student support and the cost of living of £7,654 inside London and £7,693 outside London.
4. In 2012, NUS worked with Friends of the Earth to conduct a pilot survey the conditions of students' home during the winter months: 78% of respondents either agreed or completely agreed that they felt uncomfortably cold at home over the winter: 82% have worn more than one layer of clothing to bed, because it was so cold, 79% either turned the heating off or hesitated to use it because they were worried about their bill, 67% have worn outdoor hats, gloves and scarves in their own home to keep warm
5. The evidence increasingly shows that students are the invisible fuel poor and it is intolerable that students are forced to choose between heating and eating.
6. Many tenancy agreements within the private rented sector restrict tenants from changing utility companies without permission from the landlord, which is usually hard to gain.
7. The study "Precarious domesticities: energy vulnerability among urban young adults" by Bouzarovski et al (2013) on houses in multiple occupancy (HMOs) in Selly Oak, Birmingham shows a major factor in the invisibility of student fuel poverty is that many students do not understand themselves to be in fuel poverty while still living in homes colder than recommended for health.
8. Bouzarovski 2013 also found students in HMOs are already undertaking all possible measures to reduce their energy bills and their energy consumption.
9. Bouzarovski 2013 concludes by calling for tighter regulation on landlords to improve heating efficiency and a more pro-active role by universities in encouraging this, and also notes student fuel poverty creates a vicious cycle depriving students in need of their collective political voice.
10. The recent industrial dispute at Grangemouth refinery in Scotland showed a single individual had the power to shut the plant down & threaten the "stability of the Scottish economy".

11. The evidence from opinion polling by YouGov shows that there is supermajority support among all layers of the population for nationalisation of utilities and other major areas of the economy.
12. Add further believes:
13. The point of NUS is to facilitate the collective political voice of students.
14. Consumer-side strategies for tackling fuel poverty are reaching a limit, especially as the energy market in the UK is oligopolistic & in private hands and therefore barely publicly accountable.
15. Energy companies' threatened "strike" against even a small proposed price freeze, coupled with Grangemouth owner Ineos's blackmail of the Scottish government, show the energy sector is being run irresponsibly in private hands.

NEC Resolves

1. To examine the effect on energy price rises on students and the effect on wellbeing, and the prevalence of energy saving provision in student households.
2. To work with students' unions and external allies to raise the profile of the issue of student fuel poverty and its impact, and to link this to wider concerns about energy prices and fuel poverty in our communities.
3. To explore how NUS and students' unions can have a bigger influence on energy costs for student homes locally
4. To build on the 'Homes Fit For Study' project to propose practical recommendations and policy change to reduce the cost of student energy bills and address both the causes and impact of fuel poverty in our communities.
5. To prepare material to offer to constituent members helping students determine whether they are in fuel poverty & signposting them to NUS campaigns on the issue.
6. To call for increased environmental regulation of landlords on the basis of controlled rent to ensure costs of improvements are not passed on to students.
7. To encourage students' unions and universities to use their dominant positions in local housing markets to push for more environmentally-sound houses
8. To press on the national level for public ownership of the energy sector on a democratic, not-for-profit basis in order to reduce prices & improve the sustainability of the energy industry.

Emergency motion | Students and workers unite and fight!

NEC Believes:

1. People who work for our universities, from lecturers to library staff, are taking strike action on 3 December. This is the second day of strike action that has been organised this term by the trade unions UCU, Unison and Unite
2. The strike has been called over a 1% pay offer, which represents a real terms wage cut. This comes after many years of declining wages. Academic staff have seen a real-terms pay cut of 13.8% since 2009
3. Many of the workers taking part in action will also tell you that their reasons for striking include ever increasing work-loads, low-pay, casualisation, zero-hour contracts, bullying and discrimination
4. Many students are among those who will be striking, including the many thousands who rely on teaching and part time work to continue their studies

5. The strike on 31 October drew wide support from students, many of whom joined rallies and pickets in support of those on strike.

NEC Further Believes:

1. The issues the strike relates to directly affect students. Under-paid, overworked and undervalued staff are never going to be able to give students the best possible help and support, however dedicated they may be
2. This strike is part of both the fight to defend education and to beat back the brutal austerity policies that are seeing jobs destroyed, living standards decimated and the future for the next generation snatched away
3. Strikes are the most powerful weapon working people have to fight to change things for the better – they demonstrate the huge potential power of workers
4. For Students, this strike may be a minor inconvenience in the short-term, but the long term damage that's being done to education will have far more detrimental effects if it goes unchallenged

NEC Resolves:

1. To stand in complete solidarity with workers taking strike action in our universities
2. To produce a leaflet for distribution on campuses, explaining why students should support strikes and attend picket lines to bring support and solidarity
3. To make the campaign to support the strike a top item on the NUS website and use social media networks to publicise it
4. To write to all students unions advising them to host joint public meetings with campus trade unions in the run up to the strike to attempt to raise awareness of the issues and.

Meeting 4: 23 January 2014

Priority Zone Proposal

Proposal: A new deal for the next generation

Conference Believes:

1. Continued attacks on the prospects of students both in education and in their communities represent a whole generation let down by those with power
2. A feeling of powerlessness and precariousness is increasingly common among the rising generation, squeezed by global recession and biting financial pressures, uncertain about its prospects and its future
3. We too often feel let down by politicians who fail to speak on our behalf in a world where the odds are already stacked against us
4. Young people and students' prospects continue to worsen due to rising unemployment and living costs
5. Evidence from Ipsos Mori public opinion polling shows more than two thirds of people believe the UK government does not adequately consider future generations in the decisions it makes today
6. The next UK general election is due to take place on Thursday 7 May 2015

Conference further believes:

1. At the 2010 general election, just 44 per cent of those aged 18 to 24 voted, compared 76 per cent of the over 65s
2. The introduction of individual voter registration (IER) threatens to further reduce the number of students and young people voting
3. The gulf in voting levels between the generations leaves young people losing out in policy terms
4. That NUS' approach to the general election needs to be both local and national, supporting students to win locally and on a national level.
5. To achieve a new deal for the next generation we will need public support, and this is best achieved through working together with people in the communities we live in and finding common cause.
6. That NUS analysis of the 2011 census data demonstrates that there are over 60 constituencies in the UK with over 10 per cent full time students, and that the strength of the student voice and the student vote should be reaffirmed at every opportunity.

Conference Resolves:

1. To campaign for a new deal for the next generation across the themes of education, work and community
2. To use the opportunity of the next General Election to win for students both locally and nationally
3. To continue and develop the new campaigning partnership between NUS and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) to work together for a better deal for students and workers through a strong collective voice
4. To work with external allies and partners to maximise voter registration and electoral participation among young people and students to ensure their voices are heard
5. To launch a general election hub in 2014, and support every students' union to develop their own election strategy - supporting students to win both locally and nationally.
6. To empower students and to connect student communities with wider society, including through continuing our community organising work and training students as community organisers on their campuses and in their communities.
7. To campaign nationally for political parties to adopt NUS demands, taken from policies passed or ratified by National Conference, and chosen by NUS NEC.

Motion 1 | A review that matters to everyone not just Wales

NEC Believes:

1. A wholesale review of Higher Education Funding in Wales has been announced by the Welsh Government

2. Although the detailed terms of reference are yet to be announced we know that the main areas of focus for the review will be:
 - a. How course are funded
 - b. How students are funded and supported
 - c. This will all be reviewed with an increased focus on part time study and widening access
3. The NUS Wales President will have a seat on the review
4. The review is not due to report back until after the Welsh Assembly elections in 2016.
5. The review presents us with a real chance to take the work of the Imagine Education Commission NUS Wales ran last year and change the parameters of the debate away from fees and debt and challenge them to think about how they can create an education system that truly works for students across Wales.
6. The Welsh Government has already committed to the broad recommendations of the Imagine Education Commission in their 'future of Higher Education' policy document released in 2013
7. We have to ensure that we turn their previous commitments into legislation and solid recommendations of the review.
8. We want to use the research of Pound In Your Pocket Wales, our ground breaking research on part time students and Imagine Education as the evidence base for our lobbying.
9. We have to ensure that the length of the review does not silence public debate on education funding.

NEC Resolves:

1. Due to the size and scope of the review we need to ensue as a UK organisation that we are maximising the opportunity it presents not just in Wales but as best practice if we win for the rest of the UK.
2. That NUS UK will provide more organisational support and resource to NUS Wales for the duration of the review.

Motion 2 | Challenging rhetoric and turning out voters

NEC Believes:

6. The European elections will to be held on Thursday 22 May
7. The European elections often have a much lower turnout than the General Election which leads to an increase of power in the hands of voters that vote for far-right parties and candidates.
8. Currently the UK is represented by members of the BNP in the European Parliament and both Nick Griffin and Andrew Brones are seeking re-election.
9. The rise of UKIP is symptom of a much wider political narrative of the mainstreaming of anti-immigration rhetoric
10. NUS has a proud history of opposing racist, fascist and xenophobic views and also a proud history of campaigning against this European elections.
11. NUS should support the aspirations of students who wish to migrate and travel to other countries to study and improve their lot in the life.
12. International students, as with all migrants, ultimately benefit the UK: culturally, socially and economically.
13. Economic studies have suggested that if all countries opened their borders to migrants, world GDP would double. A literature review by Clemens (2011) found papers estimating open migration would increase world GDP from 67% to 147%, compared to worldwide free trade, which would boost world GDP by 0.3% to 4.8%. Kerr and Kerr (2011) surveyed the impact of immigration on 74 countries, concluding "immigrants appear to have a minor positive net fiscal effect for host countries".
14. Other economic research suggests that open borders could dramatically reduce world poverty. Clemens and Pritchard (2008) noted that of all Haitians who have escaped poverty, more than 4 out of 5 did so by emigrating.

NEC Resolves:

1. For NUS UK to continue a principled stance on being pro-immigration and to challenge the wider racist, fascist and xenophobic views that feed into the rise of far-right political parties.

2. For this to be one of the main themes of our European elections.
3. To ensure NUS UK pushed voter registration and voter turnout for the European elections.
4. That this statement should also condemn the rhetoric of UKIP, oppose British withdrawal from the EU and advocate a united fightback to level up conditions and rights, and win greater democracy, across Europe and beyond.
5. To make these themes a major part and priority of the NUS campaign around the 2014 Euro-election and 2015 General Election and in its community organising work.
6. NUS will support the policy of open borders and will oppose any efforts to remove the free movement of labour laws contained within the treaties of the European Union.

Motion 3 | 3 Cosas campaign

NEC Resolves:

1. To support the ongoing "3 Cosas" campaign by outsourced University of London workers, and advertise and promote it widely.
2. To ask the VP Society & Citizenship to meet representatives of the campaign to discuss working together.
3. To mobilise Constituent Members for the 27-29 January strike.

Motion 4 | Cops off Campus!

NEC Believes:

1. The struggle waged by students up and down the country against police, legal and management repression last term, under the slogan "Cops off campus", in connection with support for workers' struggles (the national HE workers' pay dispute, the University of London 3 Cosas campaign).
2. The police brutality meted out at the University of London (UoL) in 2013 was part of a concerted attempt to crush protest and dissent through force
3. As well as at UoL, university managements at Sussex, Birmingham, University of Ulster, Edinburgh and Sheffield have colluded with police and the state in attempts to crush protests, victimise participants and often institute 'bans' on occupations and other forms of direct action. In Cambridge, police have attempted to recruit students to spy on student activist groups
4. The 'cops off campus' protests that took place at the end of last year showed enormous anger exists against this repression and a determination to fight the attacks is present among ordinary students
5. The scale, scope and overall significance of these attacks on democratic rights make this a crucial national issue for our movement which requires an adequate national response from NUS
6. Some students, particularly those vulnerable to hate crime, feel safer having a police presence on campus and NUS should not dispute or put that in jeopardy through its policy or action.
7. Some of our member students' unions have partnerships and relationships with their local police service where they can engage constructively, act as a critical friend and receive funding for crime prevention work. It is not the place of NUS to criticise or undermine that.
8. It is right that NUS should criticise police actions where that is warranted, and support those of our members who wish to adopt a 'cops off campus' policy but in such a way that relationships that provide students with safety and security are not put at risk.

NEC further believes:

1. The growing intolerance of dissent by university managements is linked to the marketisation and privatisation of higher education. Universities, more and more run like private businesses, consider democracy an unaffordable and easily disposed of luxury.
2. It is in the context of austerity and of huge attacks on education that democratic rights are being undermined
3. Democratic and civil liberties have been won by working people over generations of struggle and must be vigorously defended

4. The demonstrations that were called at short notice over this issue, saw thousands taking to the streets and joining campus protest
5. That this swift response, organised by anti-cuts students and left students union leaders was effective and helped ensure that the police lacked the confidence to enter University of London campuses or attack protesters on 11 December
6. Now our movement must demand the right to protest on campus as part of our campaigns to end the cuts, the privatisation of the student loan company, attacks on bursaries and grants and for decent pay and conditions for all university staff

NEC Resolves:

1. To support and promote the London demonstration on 22 January and the Birmingham demonstration on 29 January.
2. To support students' unions who wish to have 'cops off campus'.
3. To be clear that supporting any 'cops off campus' action relates only to those students' unions who wish to adopt a similar approach.
4. To continue to support our members with crime prevention work on campuses and in communities for the safety of students.
5. Continue to support students' unions and students campaigning to defend the right to protest, and against the privatisation of their campuses. Re-launch our Occupations and Protest Guidance, ensuring that students' unions are equipped with the arguments against university management seeking to criminalise protest.
6. Continue to work with trade unions on the right to protest, and help students' unions and trade unions work more effectively together on this issue.
7. Continue to work with Defend the Right to Protest and Green and Black Cross, and look into working with other appropriate support groups on supporting students facing criminal charges.
8. Continue to press the Mayor of London for an inquiry into police tactics and behaviour towards protestors in London. Work with Andrew Dismore, GLA member for the area to ensure Boris Johnson is held accountable for the action of his police force.
9. Call on the police to drop unjustified charges against students arrested during the protests in November and December.
10. Call on UUK to condemn those universities attempting to criminalise students and make their campuses protest free zones.

Motion 6 | Stand up to racism and fascism – supporting UN Anti-Racism Day 2014

NEC Believes:

1. A day of action against racism has been called for across Europe to coincide with the marking of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2014, with eyes on the European elections in May.
2. These elections are set to be dominated by racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and the scapegoating of minorities – Muslims, immigrants, Roma, Black and Asian communities.
3. Across Europe the fascist and populist racist right are on the rise. From the violent Golden Dawn in Greece, the anti-Roma Jobbik in Hungary, the Islamophobic Freedom Party of Geert Wilders in the Netherlands to the success of the Front National in France, these currents are encouraging hatred, fear and prejudice in a frightening wave across the continent.
4. In Britain the far right is hoping for gains in the Euro elections. The British National Party (BNP) is seeking the re-election of Nick Griffin in the North West and Andrew Brons is seeking re-election in Yorkshire and the Humber.
5. Following the rising violence of Golden Dawn and the murder of anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas, (also known as Killah P), the Greek anti-fascist and anti-racist movement has proposed that next year's UN Day Against

Race Discrimination on March 21/22 should be the focus for actions against racism and fascism across Europe.

6. ChildLine reported a 69% rise in the number of calls from children who were victims of racist bullying in school.
7. That there has been a recent ruling on the Mark Duggan inquest, that his death, at the hands of the Metropolitan Police, was lawful.
8. That the statistics for deaths in police custody show that between 1990 and 2013, 249 people died in the custody of the Metropolitan Police, 969 died in police custody, and a total of 1476 people died in police custody or otherwise died following contact with the police.
9. That, to date, not a single police officer has been successfully prosecuted for any wrongdoing relating to these deaths.
10. That there was a recent peaceful vigil on 11th January in Tottenham, where Mark Duggan's family called for a continued 'fight for justice', and which had speakers from other examples of police brutality against working class communities, such as the Hillsborough Disaster.
11. That there have been other examples where the police have been accused of racial profiling on our campuses including recent stop-and-search drugs raids on primarily black students at Royal Holloway University, and previous raids on Muslim students homes in 'counter terrorism' investigations, such as in the aftermath of the 7/7 bombings at the University of Birmingham.

NEC further believes:

1. The Tories and UKIP look set to try to outdo each other in their calls for draconian 'anti-immigration' policies and promoting a 'Little Englander' anti-foreign, anti-Europe mentality.
2. The 'go-home' vans sent out by the Home Office over the summer were a sign of things to come as immense hostility has been whipped up towards Bulgarian and Romanian migrant workers who gained the right to work in Britain in January.
3. Such campaigns simply whip up racism in general and induce a 'blame game' for falling living standards and squeezed incomes that falls on visible minorities in stepped up discrimination, institutional racism, abuse and violence.
4. This all encourages currents like the English Defence League, which turn their Islamophobic prejudices into real attempts to terrorise the Muslim population – attacking Mosques, assaulting veiled women, insulting religious sensitivities with vile slogans and throwing pigs' heads, and organising intimidating marches into Muslim communities.
5. While there is a real threat that openly racist parties may win the 2014 Euro-elections in some countries, this can be prevented by the widest possible unity against them and the mobilisation of the broadest progressive forces and students can play a vital role in this.
6. That Mark Duggan's killing was unjust.
7. That there have been many similar examples (albeit with differences), including: Sean Rigg, Ian Tomlinson, Leon Briggs, Jean Charles de Menezes. It is all too common for people to be killed by the police.
8. That the Police in the UK have a case to answer that they remain institutionally racist.
9. That the killing of Mark Duggan cannot be separated from questions about institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police.

NEC Resolves:

1. To re-affirm NUS' commitment to the elimination of racism in all its forms.
2. To join the individuals and organisations signed up to support the 'Stand Up To Racism' rally and demo on the 22nd March that includes Frances O'Grady (TUC General Secretary), Rabbi Lee Wax, Emily Thornberry MP, Peter Hain MP, Diane Abbott MP, Claude Moraes MEP, Natalie Bennett (Green Party), Farooq Murad (Muslim Council of Britain Secretary General), Don Flynn (Director Migrant Rights Network), Habib Rahman (Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants Chief Executive), Morris Beckman (43 Group Co-Founder), Leon Silver (East London Central Synagogue President), Phyllis Opoku-Gyimah (UK Black Pride Executive Director), Gerry Gable (Searchlight Editor), The Sikh Federation UK, (Sylvia Ingmire Co-Ordinator / CEO Roma Support Group) and 20 General Secretaries of trade unions across Britain.

3. To encourage students to attend the demonstration in London and hold activities on their campuses around the day of action.
4. To wholly condemn the Metropolitan Police for killing Mark Duggan
5. To condemn the Metropolitan Police for its continued inability to deal with concerns about institutional racism.
6. To issue a public statement of support to Mark Duggan's family.
7. To support any calls for a judicial review of the case.
8. To publicise events called by the Justice for Mark Duggan campaign.

¹ <http://www.inquest.org.uk/statistics/deaths-in-police-custody>

² This has been written about extensively in the local and student press, and Daniel Cooper, ex-Royal Holloway President, who was arrested, has stated his view on the nature of the police activity here: <http://www.workersliberty.org/story/2013/09/29/police-raid-royal-holloway-students-union>

³ <http://www.birminghampost.co.uk/news/local-news/anti-terror-raids-student-halls-city-397002733>

Motion 7 | Stop the privatisation of student debt

NEC Believes:

1. Government plans for funding undergraduate higher education is in complete disarray.
2. The government grossly underestimated the real cost of the new higher education funding regime. For every £1 lent to students through the Student Loan Company, it is estimated that the government will only recoup on average 46p.
3. Forcing debt onto students as a way of funding universities is an experiment that is failing. The system of debt is unsustainable, and the same generation faced with increased fees, will be forced to pay for the mess left by the new funding regime.
4. In the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced plans to lift student number controls for institutions in England. Although we support the principle of universal access, this policy is badly thought through and uncosted. The government plans to rely on the sale of the student loan book to fund this policy, and to continue relying on the sale of loan book going forward, despite the fact it is not yet possible to sell the 2012 loan book.
5. National media outlets, including The Guardian, have reported on the 'black-hole' in the BIS budget – due primarily to private providers, with designated funding, recruiting significantly more students than expected. Consequently, the National Scholarship Program and Student Opportunity Fund have been removed or threatened in order to give public money to private, for-profit providers who use it to make money off the back of students.
6. The Government has consistently and conspicuously failed to secure the terms and conditions of student loans in primary legislation, which means they can be changed without a vote in Parliament.
7. A leaked document, authored by Rothschilds, made it clear than in order to make loans profitable for sale the government would either have to change terms and conditions of lenders, or underwrite the amount of profit the company should expect to receive from recouping the debt.
8. NUS has taken a strong stance against the sale of the loan book and any change in terms and conditions, and the National President gave evidence to a hearing of the BIS Select Committee in December to that effect.
9. NUS received assurances from the Minister for Universities and Science that he would not look to change the terms and conditions on loans, but as it stands this is a hollow assurance and in any case there is no guarantee that it would extend beyond the 2015 General Election.

NEC Further Believes

1. Students wishing to return to study at Level 3, over the age of 24, have been forced onto the same loan regime as higher education undergraduates.
2. NUS won concessions on loans for apprentices over 24, but there are still many students forced to take loans in further education. There has been no clarity on the sale or change in terms and conditions of those loans, and the government has remained silent on the future of level 3 funding for over 24s.

NEC Resolves:

1. To make three demands of Government:
 - Do not sell the student loan book
 - Secure past, current and future student loan terms and conditions in primary legislation
 - Stop designating public funding to for-profit alternative providers
 - Ensure all of these demands are made in reference to both loans in further and higher education.
2. Encourage students to lobby their MPs to sign up to Early Day Motion 542 on the 'Sale of Student Loans'.
3. Organise action in reference to the demands above, during the national week of action, taking place between Monday 3 – Friday 7 February 2014.
4. Organise action on the Budget Day, 19th March 2014, against the use of public money funding private for-profit providers.

Motion 8 | Stop the Lobbying Bill

NEC Believes:

1. The Transparency of Lobbying, Non Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill ('Lobbying Bill') represents an attack on the ability of charities, non-government organisations, trades unions and students' unions to have their voices heard in the run up to a General Election
2. The almost halving of the amount of money that charities and non-government organisations can spend on non partisan campaigning in the run up to a General Election threatens to seriously inhibit the ability of NUS, students' unions and activist groups to influence policies during the 12 months before a General Election
3. It is a fundamental right of civil society that organisations can join together to influence political parties and the political process for the benefit of their members
4. The Lobbying Bill does not sufficiently tackle the influence of big business and the private sector in the political process

NEC further believes:

1. The Commission for Civil Society and Democratic Engagement has been instrumental in leading an evidence based call for changes to the lobbying bill
2. The government have conceded a number of significant amendments to the Lobbying Bill which increase the amount of money that organisations in the nations, as well as smaller charities (including students' unions), can spend in the year leading up to a general election
3. The government have also conceded significant exemptions to the Lobbying Bill which include the translation of materials into Welsh, making materials accessible to disabled people and security around rallies and demonstrations, as well as all activities coordinated by the Parades Commission in Northern Ireland
4. A review of the bill has been hard fought and won by the Commission
5. The Bill is irredeemably bad and whilst we should continue to fight for concessions, it would be better if it were withdrawn entirely.

NEC Resolves:

1. Celebrate the very significant concessions that have been won by civil society organisations and students' unions through the Commission for Civil Society and Democratic Engagement
2. Continue to argue for staff costs to be excluded from the cost of campaigning
3. Continue to campaign for greater clarity around the opportunities for organisations to work in coalition with each other on general election issues
4. Continue to lobby for an increase in constituency level spending limits for campaigning organisations before a general election
5. Continue to campaign for an increase in the overall spending limits for campaigning organisations before a general election
6. To continue to make the case for the Lobbying Bill to be withdrawn entirely.

Motion 9 | Support the Strike

NEC believes

1. Due to the intransigence of employers the dispute over pay and conditions for university staff represented by Unite, Unison, UCU and EIS, is ongoing. It is likely that further strike action may take place in February
2. This would be the third strike that has been called over a 1% pay offer, which represents a real terms wage cut. This comes after many years of declining wages. Academic staff have seen a real-terms pay cut of 13.8% since 2009
3. Many of the workers taking part in action will also tell you that their reasons for striking include ever increasing work-loads, low-pay, casualisation, zero-hour contracts, bullying and discrimination
4. Many students are among those who will be striking, including the many thousands who rely on teaching and part time work to continue their studies
5. Both of the previous two strikes drew wide support from students, many of whom joined rallies and pickets in support of those on strike.

NEC further believes

1. NUS correctly took a position in support of the last strike. The blame for disruption students might experience as a result of strike days lies with employers and the representatives of university managements
2. The issues the strike relates to directly affect students. Under-paid, overworked and undervalued staff are never going to be able to give students the best possible help and support, however dedicated they may be
3. This strike is part of both the fight to defend education and to beat back the brutal austerity policies that are seeing jobs destroyed, living standards decimated and the future for the next generation snatched away
4. Strikes are the most powerful weapon working people have to fight to change things for the better – they demonstrate the huge potential power of workers
5. For students, this strike may be a minor inconvenience in the short-term, but the long term damage that's being done to education will have far more detrimental effects if it goes unchallenged.

NEC resolves

1. To stand in complete solidarity with workers taking strike action in our universities
2. To produce a leaflet for distribution on campuses, explaining why students should support strikes and attend picket lines to bring support and solidarity
3. To make the campaign to support the strike a top item on the NUS website and use social media networks to publicise it
4. To write to all students unions advising them to host joint public meetings with campus trade unions in the run up to the strike to attempt to raise awareness of the issues and build support for the strike
5. To officially support students who take the decision not to cross picket lines and to produce material explaining why doing so is an act of solidarity and is part of a proud labour movement tradition
6. To include encouragement not to cross picket lines in the top article on the NUS website and in the leaflets produced
7. To disseminate legal information on the rights of students in not crossing picket lines, to help student staff know their rights & to outline to constituent members what support NUS can provide in defending students victimised for supporting strike action.

Meeting 5: 20 February 2014

Motion 1 | Solidarity with Egyptian activists and students

NEC Believes:

1. There is a far-reaching assault on human rights currently underway in Egypt, three years after the uprising which toppled Mubarak. According to Amnesty International the Egyptian military and security forces have killed around 1,400 people and detained thousands since July 2013.
2. Students in Egypt are among those facing repression by the military and security forces. University campuses have been repeatedly invaded by riot police, who have shot dead students in an attempt to crush ongoing protests against the military regime. Over 500 students have been arrested since July 2013, and many have received harsh jail terms, some as long as 17 years. Academics have also been targeted: large numbers of alleged supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood have been sacked or arrested.

NEC Resolves:

1. To call for
 - a. immediate and unconditional release of those imprisoned for exercising rights to freedom of expression and of assembly;
 - b. independent investigation into state violence and criminality, including assaults on those exercising any of the rights and freedoms above;
 - c. an immediate end to trials of civilians in military and State Security courts
2. To work with MENA Solidarity Network and the campus trade unions (UCU, Unison and Unite) to establish a broad-based solidarity initiative to defend Egyptians under threat from the military regime by
 - a. circulating solidarity appeals and information about the campaign to our members and encouraging them to participate in solidarity action
 - b. writing to the Egyptian authorities condemning the military repression
 - c. writing to the UK government calling for the immediate suspension of all financial, military or other support to the Egyptian authorities which may be used to violate the rights of Egyptian citizens. In particular, we demand immediate cessation of all sales and transfers to the Egyptian government of weapons, ammunition, vehicles, cyber-surveillance technology and other materials for use against those who exercise their right to protest.

Motion 2 | Protest at Birmingham

NEC Believes:

1. Students who wish to take non-violent protest action on their campus have a right to do so.
2. Those universities banning protest on campus and seeking to criminalise non-violent protestors are abusing their position of authority over protesting students.
3. It is totally unacceptable for a university to suspend a student for being arrested for non-violent protest.
4. Bail conditions, like those given to the arrested Defend Education protestors in Birmingham on Wednesday 29 January, are draconian and designed to frighten students away from activism.
5. The behaviour of a number of different police forces towards activists in the last 6 months has been unacceptable – from the use of kettling, strip search, refusing medical care, withholding food and water, not allowing access to toilets and taking arrestees to police stations far away from their point of their arrest and hiding police numbers is immoral and indefensible.
6. The use of the above tactics has a detrimental effect on the mental health of activists; whether they are being implemented by the police or fellow activists.
7. On 29th January 2014 over 150 students participated in a national demonstration in Birmingham for free education, for a democratic university and against a staff pay cut.
8. The body of the protest was contained by West Midlands police and university security at around 4pm
9. The students were held in the rain without food, water or access to toilets for over 4 hours.
10. This appears to closely resemble 'kettling' although West Midlands Police deny that kettling took place.

11. Students were only released if they agreed to give their details to police. When this tactic and tactics similar to this have been used before, they have been found to be illegal.
12. All students who did not give their details were arrested
13. The arrestees were held for up to 30 hours.
14. Arrestees were strip searched and had phones, notebooks, and tablet computers confiscated
15. When released, bail conditions imposed included banning students from entering any UK university campus, meeting in groups of more than 10, and sleeping anywhere but their registered address.
16. All arrestees at the University of Birmingham have been suspended until September and banned from campus by the University Management.
17. That the University of Birmingham has been condemned in the past by Amnesty International for their attempts to stifle protest.

NEC Further Believes:

1. The last NEC discussed and passed policy on the nuances of relationships that students' unions have in relation to the police and 'Cops off Campus'
2. 'Cops Off Campus is a legitimate policy aim, but it takes compromise from students on that campus not to take part in activity that requires a police presence.
3. Choosing to occupy a structurally unsafe building, or kettling a sabbatical officer, police community support officer or student gives the police legitimate cause to come onto campus.
4. That there is good reason to question the legality of the police's behaviour with regard to their containment of the protestors and their forcing the protestors to give details under threat of arrest.
5. That access to water, food and toilets are human rights which should not be restricted
6. The university of Birmingham has actively used police to stifle legitimate protest
7. That the tactics used by the university of Birmingham and West Midland police were highly intimidating.
8. The use of suspensions by the university of Birmingham to stifle protest is an attack on democracy and the right to protest, and sets a dangerous precedent for other universities
9. The university has therefore suspended students for not giving their details to police.
10. That NUS and students' unions have a responsibility to defend their students and the right to protest on campus.

NEC Resolves:

1. Write to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner demanding an investigation into police tactics and behaviour at the University of Birmingham
2. Issue a request for UUK to tell Vice-Chancellors to stop criminalising non-violent protest on campus
3. For NUS to promote the 'activists mental health toolkit' to the membership and sure nationally we are taking these guides into account when we are organising our own action.
(<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/news/article/studentmentalhealth/Activist-Mental-Health-Guides-download-now/>)
4. To mandate the Vice President Society and Citizenship to write a statement, expressing the contents of this motion, on behalf of NUS to be published on the NUS website.
5. To support to the on-going campaign at Birmingham University for the living wage.

Meeting 6: 13 May 2014

Policy Remitted to NEC from National Conference 2014 and passed

Motion 514 | Mental health – away from awareness, towards action

Conference Believes:

1. This year the Mental Health Summit brought together for the first time students' union officers and staff, external mental health and health practitioners, institutional academic and support staff to discuss mental health and how we can improve it for students.

Conference Further Believes:

1. NUS should be striving to create positive change around mental health
2. The Time to Change campaign has been a huge success in changing the rhetoric around mental health and supporting campaigning to move from awareness to action with over 60 students' unions and institutions signing up in the last year
3. That discussions from the summit provided some exciting suggestions for creating this change

Conference Resolves:

1. To develop ways that mental health support and understanding can be embedded into the structures of students unions by supporting unions to:
 - a. Lobby for relevant and appropriate training for all staff
 - b. Ensuring that academic policies do not cause undue additional mental distress for students experiencing mental health issues
 - c. Ensuring support services and institutional policies are clearly advertised at recruitment and pre-arrival stage and that disclosure of current or previous mental health problems is actively encouraged at application stage
 - d. Integrate mental health into the widening participation agenda, both nationally and locally by providing outreach to people who may not have continued in education as a result of their mental health problems and including mental health in OFFA agreements
2. Help students unions to win on achieving well-supported, appropriate services for students, which are responsive to the feedback of students and service users and flexible to students needs both in terms of the type of service (i.e. not a one size fits all, counselling for everyone approach), but also the nature of the service (i.e. number of sessions available, services available in the evenings where possible)
3. Support students unions to develop joined-up approaches across institutions and external services

Motion 516 | Condemn "Student Rights" and Support Islamophobia Awareness

Conference believes:

1. That Student Rights is an organisation claiming to support 'freedom from extremism' [1]* on UK university campuses and mostly criticises speakers it sees as 'extremists' who have been invited by Islamic and Palestinian societies [2, 23], but has in the past expressed opposition to student union 'no-platform' policy for the BNP [3] though it has since stated that its policy has changed and it now supports no platform for fascists.
2. That Student Rights was established in 2009 as a reaction to what it calls 'increasing political extremism' [1] on campus – which director Raheem Kassam is reported to have said is a reference to a wave of peaceful occupations that took place on UK campuses to protest Israel's bombing of Gaza in Operation Cast Lead [2].
3. That Student Rights' Director Raheem Kassam was also the Executive Director of the right-wing website, The Commentator, until recently [4] – known for publishing articles such as this [5]. He is the founder of Trending

Central [6], another right-wing “news” website, and has held various positions in the controversial neoconservative think tank The Henry Jackson Society [7]. Press reports that he was setting up a UK arm of the Tea Party have so far failed to materialise [8].

4. That Student Rights has only recently confirmed that it is a project of The Henry Jackson Society – a neoconservative think tank whose associate director, Douglas Murray, has argued that “conditions for Muslims in Europe must be made harder across the board” and “all immigration into Europe from Muslim countries must stop” [9] – but is not transparent about its origins or funding on its website or materials.
5. That Student Rights’ most recent report on gender segregation [10], focusing on Islamic society events, has been described as deeply flawed in its methodology [11], and failed in almost every case to determine whether segregation was enforced or if people were voluntarily choosing to sit where they want to, and presented the phenomenon as ‘part of a wider, discriminatory trend’ on campuses [10, p. 17] which resulted in headlines in the mainstream media associating gender segregation with ‘extremism’ [12].
6. That the Institute of Race Relations has noted with concern [13] that Student Rights’ work and reporting has been used by far-right groups to target a Muslim student event [14] which led to reported threats of violence and the event subsequently having to be cancelled by the university [15].
7. That LSE, Goldsmith’s, Birkbeck, Kingston and UCL Student Unions have voted in favour of condemning Student Rights for its overwhelming focus on Muslim students, the way its approach tends to bypass students themselves and its lack of transparency about its links to The Henry Jackson Society (16, 17, 18, 19).
8. That NUS President 2011-13, Liam Burns said that we need to “challenge the right wing bile that is spouted by groups like Student Rights and people like Douglas Murray”; and that NUS VP Welfare 2012-13, Pete Mercer, condemned Student Rights’ approach as a “witch-hunt” [20].
9. That the grassroots student campaign ‘Real Student Rights’ which aims to expose and oppose Student Rights is supported by NUS Black Students Officer (2013-14) Aaron Kiely; ULU Black Students Officer (2013-14) Maham Hashmi-Khan; NUS VP Welfare Officers for 2012-13 and 2013-14 Pete Mercer and Colum McGuire; and ULU President (2012-14) Michael Chessum among others [21].
10. That due to the activities of groups like Student Rights, some Muslim students are often left feeling that university staff and even fellow students are insufficiently supportive of their rights on campus which is detrimental to their university experience as individuals and to universities as a whole in terms of equal political participation, good campus relations and cohesion in the student body.

Conference further believes:

1. That the claims Student Rights makes to the press have often been sensationalist and misleading, designed to grab alarmist headlines about so-called ‘extremism’ on campus, regardless of the impact on students; and Student Rights’ director Raheem Kassam – who called students who voted for the ‘Real Student Rights’ motion in SUs voicing concerns about his organisation ‘fools’ – continues to show disdain for students [22].
2. That whether intentional or not, it is deeply damaging that Student Rights’ approach – which tends to bypass students themselves – should lead to a situation in which far-right groups come onto a campus, creating a climate in which students feel persecuted and threatened and potentially endangering students’ welfare.
3. That Student Rights’ activities fuel Islamophobia, by disproportionately and unfairly targeting Muslim students, contributing to their marginalisation and ostracisation, damaging campus cohesion and feeding into a growing trend of Islamophobic discourse in wider society which should always be challenged.
4. That sexism, racism and homophobia are problems not confined to certain sectors of society and should, like all forms of discrimination, be challenged and opposed without contributing to the marginalisation of particular groups.
5. That Student Rights legitimacy is wholly questionable given its limited or non-existent links to actual students, inconsistency on the issue of no-platform policies, creation in reaction to peaceful pro-Palestinian activism, and in particular its lack of transparency about its origins, funding, and links to The Henry Jackson Society – a think tank which has been widely criticised for comments made by its staff perceived to be Islamophobic [9].
6. That it is not the place of any external organisation – particularly one as non-transparent and dubiously connected as Student Rights – to undermine Student Unions’ autonomy or interfere with co-operation between the union and university in their work to ensure that pre-existing guidelines regarding external speakers are followed.

Conference Resolves:

1. The NUS Officer to release a public statement/open letter addressed to Student Rights criticising their lack of transparency, sensationalism, divisive and counter-productive activities and disproportionate preoccupation with Muslim students and calling on them to drastically change their approach and mentality. The statement should also outline NUS' commitment to challenging Islamophobia along with all other forms of prejudice and discrimination.
2. The NUS Officer to write to the university Student Unions, making explicit students' concerns about the effect Student Rights' activities have on students' welfare, campus cohesion and freedom of speech on campus, as well as re-iterating the union's desire to maintain its autonomy in determining guidelines on external speakers in co-operation with relevant stakeholders such as the university, without undue outside interference.
3. The NUS Officer to maintain ongoing communication and to report back to the NUS on any developments including asking the Student Union's to inform NUS of any attempts by Student Rights to lobby them regarding any student groups' activities.
4. To circulate the 'Real Student Rights' petition via email / social media.
5. To write to the UUK and AOC, making explicit our concerns about the group Student Rights, and the effect that its activities have on students welfare, campus cohesion and on freedom of speech on campus as well as re-iterating the NUS policy of opposing and disallowing any form of hate speech on campus and its desire to maintain its autonomy in determining the boundaries of this remit without outside interference.
6. To encourage students unions, university management and university press offices to both resist unfair targeting of Muslim students, their events and political campaigns and encourage them to publicly condemn Islamophobia, Student Rights and any similar groups to the press when individuals students or their Muslim student population as a whole is unfairly singled out or targeted

* Where there is a number in brackets e.g. [1] there is a footnote which has not been outlined here but the version with the footnotes is available on request

Motion 517 | A New EMA

Conference believes:

1. That the EMA in England was abolished by the Coalition Government in the 2010 spending review, despite widespread opposition and clear evidence of its impact on participation, retention, and attainment
2. That the decision was based on a flawed reading of one research report, and which the author said was the wrong conclusion to take from his work
3. That the EMA in England was replaced by the discretionary 16-19 Bursary Fund, with a total budget of £180m, only a third the size of the EMA budget
4. That duty on local authorities to ensure adequate transport in order for those aged 16-19 to access FE is routinely ignored
5. That research by Barnardo's has found that the 16-19 Bursary Fund is inadequate to meet the needs of learners and has created a 'postcode lottery' of support around the country
6. That the EMA has been retained in the three devolved nations, though with each making different policy changes over time
7. That the participation age will rise to 18 by 2015 – which will mean a need for more support, not less

Conference further believes:

1. That an entitlement-based scheme for learners in FE is the fairest means of distributing resources
2. That the EMA system previously in place was imperfect and did not adequately take into account the needs of learners with larger families, or changing circumstances
3. That the £30 maximum rate of EMA was never increased over its lifetime and as it lost value it blunted the effectiveness of EMA
4. That simply restoring EMA without reform would be to miss an important opportunity to address its flaws

5. That any new scheme should retain a small discretionary fund for hardship and unexpected costs, as was the case prior to 2010
6. With the general election just one year away, it is vital that NUS builds a movement to press politicians to commit to bring back a weekly grant for students in Further Education.

Conference resolves:

1. To campaign for an EMA replacement that restores an entitlement to learners but addresses the flaws in the original scheme and to make it a major priority to press MPs and political parties to commit to ahead of the General Election.
2. To ensure that any proposed scheme remains as simple as possible to understand and administer
3. To make the case through our campaign that a new EMA is not simply an incentive scheme but a necessary means of support for learners in FE
4. To empower FE unions to make the case on a local level
5. To consider how the scope of a new EMA can be extended to learners older than 19
6. To continue to defend EMA in the nations and build a campaign for improvements in levels of financial support to students.

Motion 518 | International Students

Conference Believes:

1. That education is a right to everyone, regardless of nationality.
2. That this government is using international students as a scapegoat to meet racist immigration targets.
3. That this government, as well as many of our institutions, treat international students as cash cows.
4. That international students have the right to work in the UK.
5. That international students should be treated with respect, and all monitoring should be low-impact.

Conferences Resolves:

1. That University fees for international students should be fixed.
2. That international students should not be charged for using the NHS.
3. NUS should run a campaign highlighting the non-economic benefits of having international students on our campuses bring.
4. For now, Universities should minimise the impact of UKBA by putting in place non-invasive monitoring, integrated with ordinary attendance procedures to comply with regulations.
5. NUS should campaign for UKBA to cease systematic monitoring of overseas students at all Universities and focus on institutions where there has been evidence of incompetence.
6. The government should abandon the plans of monitoring students through landlords.
7. The NUS should campaign to bring back post-study Visas for international students.

Motion 520 | Access without support is not opportunity

Conference believes:

1. Our discourse around Higher Education funding and student debt is focused on tuition fees, not on student financial support.
2. NUS's 2012 Priority campaign was the 'Pound in your Pocket' survey.
3. Similar surveys are being conducted this year in Wales and Northern Ireland.
4. None of the 2012 priority campaign activity has yet translated into a sustained nationwide campaign on student financial support.
5. This year, the Scottish Government committed to above-inflation rises in student financial support. Other nations have yet to see the same.

6. Universities are increasingly exploring removing some institutional financial support to invest in outreach activity, and OFFA (the Office for Fair Access) appears to be encouraging them to do so.
7. Universities with strong records on access cannot possibly afford to offer all of their students the amount of support they really need.
8. The Access to Learning Fund is an emergency and discretionary hardship fund to provide local support to those students in the direst financial need and from the most vulnerable groups.
9. The Access to Learning Fund stood at £37m this year and faces uncertainty over its existence for next year and in the future in its current form.

Conference further believes:

1. Student financial support is a key priority for our Higher Education campaign if we are serious about wanting students to stay in education, succeed, and thrive.
2. Student financial support is equally as important as how university tuition is funded.
3. No condemnation of the current system of Higher Education funding is complete without critiquing the shoddy state of student financial support.
4. No discussion of student debt is complete without acknowledging the burden of maintenance loans.
5. It is the responsibility of national governments, not just our institutions, to ensure that students in Higher Education have the necessary financial support to succeed.

Conference Resolves:

1. To make fairer, better funded student financial support a key 'ask' in the 2015 General Election campaign, alongside similar calls for students in Further Education.
2. To conduct further national research on the impact of financial hardship on students' attainment, extra-curricular participation, and prospects after graduation.
3. To continue to fight for student bursaries, but to acknowledge that in properly-funded governments system of student financial support, universities could focus on more targeted support and outreach.
4. To extend this call for fairer and better funded financial support to students in postgraduate study, not just those students who currently receive support.
5. To campaign for reinstatement of any cuts to both Students Opportunities Fund and Access to Learning Fund.
6. To lobby for ring-fenced funding of hardship funds.

Motion 521 | Students and HIV/AIDS

Conference Believes:

1. That HIV/AIDS exists, almost 100,000 people are HIV+ in the UK, and people of all gender identities and sexual orientations are affected.
2. For too long HIV/AIDS has been seen as a Gay mans issue, and that recently, even within this community; campaigning, awareness and action against the spread of the virus has decreased.
3. That stigma around HIV+ people is rife.
4. That testing for HIV is just a part of a full sexual health screening.
5. That HIV denialist exist, and that conspiracy films such as "House of Numbers" have no place on our campuses.

Conference Further Believes:

1. According to the National AIDS Trust (2012) 48% of people living with HIV were probably exposed via Heterosexual Contact, while 43% were men who have sex with men.
2. 33% of HIV+ people in the UK are Women.
3. Black African, Caribbean and Asian people make up 48% of people living with HIV, yet are less than 10% of the UK population.

Conference Resolves:

1. To champion HIV testing, research and campaigning outside of the LGBT community
2. For the Welfare Zone and others to create relevant resources for events such as World AIDS Day which will be promoted to all SUs and not just the LGBT Societies.
3. To denounce HIV denialist propaganda and conspiracy theories which spread stigma and mistruths about HIV+ people.
4. To actively work with NUS USI on their campaign to lift the blanket life time blood donation ban on MSM.

Motion 302 | Local and Vocal: Students and the Ballot Box

NUS Believes:

1. Students are citizens who have a direct interest in matters beyond our campuses and have a vital role in shaping communities.
2. Students are too often negatively profiled and othered in their communities with a false divide between students and residents, leading to disengagement with local politics.
3. Fewer than 1 in 6 students feel they are able to influence the decisions of those in power and only 18% of students feel that they have trust in politicians.
4. Community organising offers us a genuine opportunity for students to be involved more deeply in the political and civic life of our towns and cities.
5. Community organising is about bringing people together and empowering them to achieve change through political action. By using this approach communities come together to compel public authorities and businesses to respond to the needs of ordinary people.
6. We are at our strongest as a movement when we act collectively and community organising enables us to build these networks across regions and campuses.
7. Community organising has made a real difference to communities and campuses across the UK, such as around the campaigns on Living Wage and against pay day loans.
8. Community organising is about building a vibrant and active civil society through building power and confidence amongst everyday people create the changes they want to see themselves.
9. Community organising focuses on power in a way that is truly grassroots and about empowering people to challenge the way decisions are made and to create change in their communities.
10. Community organising builds for lasting, impactful change rather than striving for instant, short-term results.
11. That community organising offers us a genuine opportunity to be involved more deeply in the political and civic life of our towns and cities.
12. Community organising enables us as a movement to build an activist base and we must continue to invest in this kind of support.
13. High levels of student volunteering suggests that many students feel strong levels of ownership to their community and are willing to invest.
14. That the principles of community organising mean that we must challenge the way we talk about power and leadership styles within our movement.

NUS Resolves:

1. To maintain and build upon the community organising work that has begun with NUS' community organising pilot projects.
2. To support and provide training to students' unions on how to use community organising principles to empower students within their communities, including how to develop young leaders.
3. To support students' unions to develop their expertise and strategy in community organising in their towns and cities to empower students and non-students within their communities.
4. To support students' unions build broad-based citizens' alliances with other organisations within their cities/towns/regions, such as with Trade Unions, youth services, schools and religious groups.
5. To develop and support a national network of student community organisers.
6. To support SUs to develop their own community organising priorities via a series of training sessions and briefings.
7. To provide guidance on how to engage with local authorities and other decision makers.

8. To work with national community organising organisations to enhance NUS' understanding of community organising principles.
9. To host a follow-up to last year's flagship 'We Are The Change' community organising event.

Motion 311 | Barclays Bank – the Tax Dodging and the Exploitation

Conference Believes

1. Corporate tax is an important source of revenue for governments around the world that helps build vital public services and reduce poverty and inequality
2. 2013 has seen an unprecedented focus on tax-dodging by big business such as Google and Starbucks and was top of the agenda at the G8 Summit in Loch Erne.
3. Tax-dodging harms public services in the UK and in developing countries where three times more is lost to tax-dodging than is received in aid.
4. Tax-dodging by big business narrows access to education, particularly for women in developing countries.
5. Big business has a role to play in development, but only if they act responsibly and in the interests of poor people.
6. Big businesses use a sophisticated network of tax havens and legal loopholes to shift profits out of the countries where they were made without paying taxes on them.
7. USD\$20 trillion is estimated to be stashed in tax havens. That's enough to send every child in Africa to school and to rebuild the continent's entire road network with plenty spare.
8. Tax avoidance by multinational corporations is immoral, especially in developing countries where revenue can be used to build hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, roads, and other vital public services.

Conference Further Believes

1. Barclays bank has ambitions to be the biggest bank in Africa.
2. A recent report by anti-poverty charity ActionAid demonstrated that the bank actively promotes the use of tax havens by big businesses who want to make profits in Africa.
3. A division of the bank called Offshore Corporate exists, in its own words, to
4. "Maximise the advantage offered by offshore jurisdictions"
5. The offshore jurisdictions promoted by Barclays are known tax havens that are set up to allow the secret flow of money out of countries where they would have been taxed at a higher level.
6. Barclays bank is supposed to be in a process of cleaning up after being hit by numerous scandals including the LIBOR fixing disgrace that resulted in the resignation of the bank's Chief Executive, Bob Diamond.
7. Barclays bank was forced into a humiliating withdrawal from South Africa in the 1980s after NUS launched a campaign against their support of the racist apartheid regime.
8. Barclays says it wants to be a "force for good" in Africa, but its heavy promotion of tax haven use suggests otherwise.
9. Barclays should be learn the lessons of their past and close down their Offshore Corporate division while eliminating all its activities in tax havens

Conference Resolves

1. To lend our voice to the campaign to stop tax-dodging by big business, especially in developing countries.
2. To support member unions to develop local campaigns that highlight the link between tax and public services at home and in developing countries.
3. To incorporate tax-dodging into our work in the run up to the General Election in 2015
4. To lend our voice to the campaign to demand that Barclays shuts down its Offshore Corporate division and eliminates all its activities in tax havens
5. To send a message of solidarity to student unions in developing countries that shows our commitment to stopping UK corporations from shifting money out of their countries

Motion 312 | Legal Aid

Conference believes:

1. Legal Aid can be defined as "payment from public funds allowed, in cases of need, to help pay for legal advice or proceedings." <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/legal-aid>
2. The Ministry of Justice are proposing to reduce Legal Aid by £220 million annually by 2018
<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2013/sep/18/liberal-democrats-legal-aid-cuts>

Conference further believes:

1. Access to Legal Aid is a fundamental need of an individual that cannot afford to hire a more costly lawyer.
2. Freedom of choice of a lawyer is hugely important and the reduction in legal aid funding risk removing client choice.
3. This will impact on our students looking to get representation from a lawyer with a specific skillset i.e. in the event of a student arrested at a protest wanting access to a lawyer with a strong record in this area.
4. It could have a hugely detrimental impact on aspiring law students looking to go into this area of work.
5. The Law Society is currently reviewing their tactics in tackling the proposed changes.

Conference resolves:

1. To release a statement in support of the defence of Legal Aid. The statement will affirm the importance of access to Legal Aid for some of the hardest hit in our local and student communities and affirm the right of legally-aided defendants to choose their lawyer.
2. To work with the National Law Society and student law societies to campaign against the cuts being made to Legal Aid and defend the right of those that can't afford a lawyer access to good legal advocacy with freedom of choice.
3. To lobby for the creation of a campaigns toolkit by NUS that can be used by Students' Unions to support the campaign in defence of Legal Aid.
4. To ask the NUS to lobby the government against its current position on Legal Aid.
5. To lobby for access to legal aid for all students at universities.

Motion 313 | Get Out the Vote; Stop the Far Right

Conference Believes:

1. That the Get Out the Vote work NUS did in advance of the previous European Parliament elections was invaluable in the effort to shut down the BNP.
2. That across Europe far right groups are taking advantage of the present crisis to swell their ranks.
3. NUS has traditionally played an important and leading role in society's response to the far right.
4. That UKIP is part of the group Europe for Freedom and Democracy, which includes representatives from the Danish People's Party, the True Finns Party, The Dutch SGP, and the Italian Lega Nord - all of them far right.
5. The UKIP party leader, Nigel Farage, is co-president of this group along-side Lega Nord's Francesco Speroni who once described Andres Breivik as a man whose "ideas are in defense of western civilisation".
6. That in May of this year the UKIP Group of Lincolnshire County Council refused to sign an Anti-Racism pledge upon election as it "pushes forward the chance of multiculturalism".
7. That the founder of UKIP, Alan Sked, has said it has become "extraordinarily right-wing" and is now devoted to "creating a fuss, via islam and immigrants".
8. UKIP sacked its Youth Chairman, Olly Neville, for supporting Equal Marriage.
9. The former UKIP MEP Nikki Sinclair, who came out as a lesbian, won a discrimination case against UKIP after being ousted for refusing to sit with its homophobic allies in the European Parliament.
10. UKIP's only current female MEP threatened to leave the party, labelling Nigel Farage as "anti-women".
11. Nigel Farage endorsed the comment "no employer with a brain in the right place would employ a young, single, free woman" by UKIP MEP Godfrey Bloom.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That UKIP is a racist, xenophobic, homophobic and sexist organisation.
2. That extremist far right parties thrive on low voter turnout.

Conference Resolves:

1. To condemn UKIP publicly on the basis of the above.
2. To reaffirm our commitment to smashing the far right.
3. To incorporate an expose on UKIP's racist, xenophobic, homophobic and sexist politics in our Get Out The Vote work in advance of the next European Parliament election.

Motion 314 | Public ownership of the Banks

Conference believes

1. The 2008 bank bailout cost £850 billion.
2. Britain's 1,000 wealthiest individuals own £450 billion
3. The Coalition has cut billions from education, welfare and health spending, while lowering taxes for the rich.
4. According to the Office of National Statistics, UK workers' average real-term hourly earnings have fallen 8.5% since 2009.

Conference further believes

1. This is a government of the rich, acting in the interests of the rich - using the crisis to attack jobs, wages, benefits and public services.
2. NUS believes in democracy - but democracy is limited when wealth and power are in the hands of a few.
3. If the vast wealth of society was socially owned and democratically controlled, not in the hands of a few, society could fund top quality free education, services, jobs and benefits for all in place of grotesque inequality and irrational waste of resources.
4. We should aim for a government which serves the interests of the majority (workers, students, service-users), taxing the rich and expropriating the banks to rebuild public services and create jobs.

Conference resolves

1. To campaign for the TUC policy of "full public ownership of the banking sector and the creation of a publicly owned banking service, democratically and accountably managed" and for taxing the rich, to reverse cuts and fund services, education and jobs.

Motion 315 | Fossil Free

Conference believes:

1. The fossil fuel industry is driving the climate crisis
2. A report based on research from People & Planet, Platform and 350.org estimates that UK universities invest £5.2 billion in fossil fuel companies
3. Institutions' investments in fossil fuel companies contradict NUS policy and fundamentally undermine universities and colleges' rightful place as a public service run for the good of society.
4. Following extensive flooding, Dame Julia Slingo, the Met Office's chief scientist, said that "all the evidence suggests there is a link to climate change."
5. The worst effects of climate change can be avoided - but only with much greater political will and urgent action to cut carbon emissions.
6. The International Energy Agency report that increased 'fracking' would lead to a 3.5°C temperature rise, well above the 1.5°C acknowledged as the tipping point for runaway climate change.
7. To stop disastrous climate change, four fifths of all existing fossil fuels must be left in the ground.

Conference further believes:

1. That the Government has failed to take action to reduce climate-changing carbon emissions
2. That instead of taking urgent action on decarbonisation of our energy supply, the government have instead chosen to focus on lining the pockets of their friends in the fossil fuel industry, with a new dash for gas through fracking.

Conference resolves:

1. To mobilise students to press the Government to take tougher action on climate change
2. To work with SUs to support People and Planet's 'Fossil Free' campaign, stepping up efforts to green campuses and force universities and colleges to divest from the fossil fuel industry.
3. To condemn the Tory & Liberal Democrat Government's new dash for polluting, expensive gas, and push instead for investment in energy efficiency & renewable energy to end the scandal of winter deaths and ensure we play our part in preventing dangerous climate change.
4. To collaborate with People and Planet, publicly support the Fossil Free UK campaign and make resources available via NUS Connect
5. To campaign against 'greenwashing' of the fossil fuel industry (sponsorship, donations and support)
6. To divest any investments in the fossil fuel industry and establish an ethical investment policy, ratified annually by the NEC

Motion 316 | Equality for Students

Conference believes

1. That to truly improve student and long term resident relations, stereotypes of students as perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, litter dropping and crime, amongst other issues, should be actively challenged in coordination nationally, using a variety of techniques.
2. That students should not be discriminated against in decisions made within local communities, based upon stereotypes which are unfounded, unjustified and lack proper backing such as those seen recently in Cambridge under the motor proctor scheme and in Newcastle with car parking spaces in Jesmond.
3. That if students are truly at fault for issues, they should be treated equally and face the same penalties as those who are longer-term resident, instead of being unfairly discriminated against whilst sometimes lacking effective and appropriate representation within local government, community bodies and/or services.
4. That the National Union of Students has a significant role to play in combating issues between students and wider communities, exercising the influence and power it has with local government, community bodies and local groups.

Conference resolves

1. To mandate the Vice President of Society and Citizenship to coordinate a national campaign with the aim of improving student relations with wider communities.
2. To lobby councils to stop implementing policies which single out student communities, such as the parking bans in Newcastle and Cambridge.
3. For the National Union of Students to conduct a widescale review of the mistreatment and discrimination of students based on their identification within the catch-all student stereotype.
4. To actively challenge student stereotypes which are promoted in the media and by politicians or organisations which seek to demonise students for issues which are not necessarily the fault of the student population.
5. For the National Union of Students to actively facilitate meetings and cooperative action between Students' Unions, local authorities and community organisations with the aim of promoting excellent relations between students and the wider community.

Motion 317 | Opposing the Immigration Bill

Conference believes

1. The immigration bill proposed by the Government will have a dramatic negative experience on the student's experience in UK.
2. Many UK Universities have a large number of international students and it will affect students from all over the UK, as they would seek other places to study abroad which provides better educational experience.
3. The bill threatens the welfare of international students in the UK.

Conference resolves

1. To investigate this issue and to lobby the Government to recognize the benefits of International Students.
2. To support Students' Union's in ensuring that they take a proactive approach to supporting International students.

Motion 320 | Defend our right to resist

Conference believes:

1. In response to the significant upturn in the student movement - with increasing numbers of students taking part in protests, occupations and campaigns against austerity and attacks on our education - there has been a huge crackdown.
2. Students have been suspended from their courses, violently attacked by the police, kettled in freezing weather for hours and even banned from protesting on central London campuses.
3. The goal of the crackdown is simple - to intimidate and deter a new generation of students from fighting back against the government's assault on our education and our future.
4. The crackdown on student protest is part of a wider assault on the right to resist in society - with increasing attacks on trade unions and the passing of the draconian 'gagging bill'.

Conference resolves to:

1. To support all students facing unlawful and unfair victimisation as a result of the crackdown on the right to resist austerity, including with legal advice and by creating a legal fund to support students facing charges or legal costs as a result of repression.
2. Continue to campaign against the 'Gagging Bill' and demand that it is reversed.
3. Work with the People's Assembly Against Austerity in their 'Hands Off Our Unions' campaign and support the trade union movement against attacks on their right to organise.

Motion 324 | Saving Polar Bears, One plastic bottle at a time

Conference believes

1. Universities and Colleges have worked hard to improve the recycling facilities on campuses; however, they can go further in order to improve what they provide for students.
2. 1 recycled glass bottle would save enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes.
3. Up to 60% of the rubbish that ends up in the dustbin could be recycled.
4. 9 out of 10 people would recycle more if it were made easier.
5. 12.5 million tonnes of paper and cardboard are used annually in the UK.
6. Each year, new students arrive on campus and need to be shown that their University or College is working hard to tackle a problem that affects their future.

Conference further believes

1. More should be done to help students recycle.
2. It is important for students to be able to recycle and for it to become part of a daily routine, therefore by having recycling points on campuses, it will make it easier for students to do so and become familiar with recycling.
3. That NUS UK should be at the forefront of this issue promoting and growing awareness of the issue of recycling.

Conference Resolves

1. Lobby Universities and Colleges to encourage students to be recycling as much as possible.
2. Lobby Universities and Colleges to have energy saving and/or motion sensed lights in all buildings by 2016.
3. Lobby Universities and Colleges to have recycling points on campuses, especially around Halls of Residences, enabling students to actively recycling and improve their surrounding areas.
4. Lobby Councils to provide recycling collections at Halls of Residences, as frequently as the residential areas within their Council region.

Motion 401 | Empowering Active Students

Preamble

This motion seeks to bring together the three arms of 'union development' defining how it will progress over the course of the next 18 months. Firstly, by empowering active students, we are working to give the knowledge and tools to individuals to create change. Secondly, empowered individuals need to work collectively to be effective; which is why we'll work to create and connect networks of student communities in and around the UK. Lastly, these communities of students will come together in students' unions; here, we must carry on with our work transforming these hubs of activity.

Traditionally, the majority of our work has been carried out in students' unions. As time progresses, we believe that this will begin to change and that more and more, students will focus their time in various communities within the union and that this is where NUS should shift its focus. Through supporting these communities and putting infrastructure in place to do this, we will be able to increase activism, enable greater levels of change and ultimately re-shape further and higher education for the future

Conference Believes:

2. Working with and through students' unions, students have a valuable and vital impact on their education and wider society.
3. Students are at their most powerful when we organise collectively.
4. Organising collectively through an independent body is a fundamental right of all students in further and higher education.
5. Thousands of students, especially in further education, work based learning, small and specialist institutions and some private providers are denied the right to organise collectively.
6. All students should have power to make a difference, to get involved and organise to take action around the issues they are most passionate about.
7. Democracy gives power to the people and by being at the vanguard of democratising students' unions, universities, colleges and wider society, we will secure more power for students to make a difference and have an impact on the world around them.
8. That power gives the opportunity to cause and provoke change and politics is the way we decide what kinds of impacts we think are important. While many students don't necessarily think of themselves as being "political", we believe that all students have power. Being political is therefore necessary to make a difference as being political is simply a way for students to organise and take action around the most widely and deeply felt issues.
9. Measuring and articulating what students' unions do – impact – allows us to both think critically about what our activities aim to achieve and also better understand the benefits of our work. From strategic benefits of thinking critically about activity aims, to democratic benefits of the increased transparency brought about through the regular measurement and publication of impact.
10. For too long measuring and articulating impact has been limited to numbers and figures about volume – simply recording how many students are in societies rather than demonstrating the impact that those societies are having on their members, their institution and wider society.

11. The UK government have cut between £20 billion from 2010 and 2015; this agenda is affecting all sectors of the economy and society - including the voluntary sector and its beneficiaries.
12. NUS have a duty to support the strategic development of its membership
13. NUS are a voluntary organisation who seek to empower, inspire and educate its membership
14. Strategic plans are a tool used to help define the purpose and nature of organisations
15. Strong unions should support student representatives via research engaged data which back student opinion
16. Students' Unions are change agents who require the tools to enable activists to impact positively on society
17. Transferable modes of best practice should be accessible to all unions
18. Campaigners need to respond to, and understand, new policy initiatives and ways of working in a challenging and changing environment.
19. VAT has been raised – considerably increasing the voluntary sector's cost base – and transitional relief on Gift Aid has been ended.

Conference Resolves:

1. To create an online hub of resources that demonstrates the power of the student movement as a force for good in society by using and analysing impact from across the student movement.
2. This evidence base should be used in multiple ways including campaigning nationally to articulate the value of students' unions and inspiring more students to take part in civil society.
3. To support students' unions to bring about social and political change in the formal curriculum of their institution alongside co- and extra-curricular activities.
4. To deliver a programme supporting students' unions to measure and articulate the impact of campaigning activity more effectively and develop a set of common metrics for measuring impact. This includes moving from quantitative to qualitative measurement tools.
5. To work with students' unions across the country to promote new and good practice models of democracy – and promote these principles further beyond their union. We will also ensure this work complements and supports our efforts to diversify elections in students' unions.
6. To create an organisational approach to empowering communities that exist in students' unions from clubs and societies to campaign groups. This should be reflected in our Quality Mark and strategic support to students' unions.
7. NUS to build modes of best practice from organisations in the sector for executive handovers into training modules for sabbaticals
8. NUS to consolidate resources into research and policy projects with the aim of lobbying and campaigning to influence the government's decision making
9. NUS to collaborate with voluntary organisations by building a resource hub that will outline how to create links with local organisations and what we can learn from them, for example community organising methods and communication tools.
10. Work in tandem with NCVO into making the voluntary sector a priority in public policy ahead of the General election 2015
11. NUS to localise strategic modelling NCVO have created to unions through bespoke training events

Motion 402 | Connecting Networks of Student Communities

Conference Believes:

1. Communities exist across all aspects of student life within the education system.
2. That based on our initial research and mapping of student communities, there are a number of different communities;
 - a. Communities of Administration (e.g. Identifying with the university, union)
 - b. Communities of Location (e.g. where you live)
 - c. Communities of Values (e.g. your identity LGBT, women)
 - d. Communities of Interest (e.g. courses, clubs and societies)

3. Students' Unions are trying to develop and involve a more diverse student population to engage and lead their unions but usually 'box' individuals and create structures that don't relate to where student communities are strong and active.
4. Active communities with deep ties are found to be based around values and interests of students.
5. The views of active and thriving communities should shape policy in students' unions. However, currently, unions put the majority of resources around administrative structures.
6. Engaging and empowering communities that already exist to make a difference and create change is a priority.
7. By working to engage existing groups of students, levels of engagement with groups of students typically seen as 'hard-to-reach' can be improved.
8. Only by re-imagining what students' unions are and how they work, by thinking differently about the communities we work with, can we build lasting relationships and engage different groups, increasing participation with our unions.

Conference Resolves:

1. To work with individuals, organisations and students' unions to fundamentally re-think how students' unions should achieve their ambitions with an aim to empower communities that already exist.
2. To research and create models of communities that students' unions can adapt that will allow unions to identify where communities lie and how they can empower them. We will draw on student development theory, so prevalent in the United States.
3. To deliver a programme of work with students' unions to re-think how their unions are structured, governed and how to disseminate power to communities of students. We will also work with students' union staff, through specialist groups, supporting what enabling these new models might look like.
4. To create a leadership development programme for student opportunity leaders on campus to ensure these community leaders have the capacity to build membership and grow activities in their unions.
5. To create an online training toolkit for clubs, societies, sports clubs and volunteering programmes to train students to build activists in readiness for the 2015 general election and beyond.
6. To create new programmes of about devolving power to student interest groups
7. To fund a series of pilot projects to embed new models of democratic participation, ensuring a diverse mix of students' unions are chosen to test our work.

Motion 411 | Regional Partnerships

Conference Believes:

1. Further Education and Higher Education unions would benefit from working closely with each other in local regions.
2. The development of the community organising agenda is exciting and must explore other ways unions can collaborate.
3. Students' Unions nationally (including NUS) talk about a united student movement however, many unions fail to work with other local unions.
4. In many Union's nationally, they strive to make sure all elections (local, European and General) are a win for students and by linking together local unions they can amplify the student voice.
5. Not all student issues are down to the institution they study in, many exist because of the locality they live in. For example, housing, crime, employment and travel campaigns can be city wide or regional issues.
6. There are lessons to be learnt from both HE and FE institutions and that city wide partnerships should be about mutual respect and development.
7. Students' unions already work hard to explore what changes they can make locally, including influencing local politics and decision makers.
8. There are already fantastic examples of students' unions working together across cities, such as; Glasgow Student Forum, NUS London Area, Birmingham Students' Unions. These groups all set their own agenda we must learn from them.

9. Full Time Officers at the National Union of Students have effective representation with trade unions through "Union Representatives"
10. While Students' Union Officers are entitled to join trade unions, there is low take up of this

Conference further believes:

1. In a time where collaboration is key and tertiary education is at the forefront of our minds, it is time that we embrace working together in city FE and HE students' unions where so many of our students experience the same issues.
2. Birmingham HE Students' Unions have created its own group of Executive Officers that meet throughout the year to discuss joint campaigns, concerns and developments to variable success. This group does not have any staff support or formal organization, consequently regular meetings are not as successful as hoped. Therefore, the results from these meetings are ineffective in its current form.
3. Trade Unions can have difficulties understanding the role of Students' Union Officers, which is a deterrent to some Officers joining
4. Better representation through trade unions, and more support in this, would enable Officers to receive better working conditions

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS should work with Students' Unions to develop partnerships across FE and HE unions.
2. NUS should hold more regional events and networking opportunities to encourage initial dialogue between unions around an area.
3. Unaffiliated Students' Union should be invited to attend.
4. NUS should identify ways that unions can share resources and capacity and pilot opening facilities where applicable to students from a number of institutions.
5. Where current collaboration is working, NUS should highlight and share examples of how and why this works well.
6. NUS should support local campaigns that develop from regional meetings with staff and resources.
7. NUS should develop guides about breaking down local politics and decision makers, making campaigning for students locally more understandable.
8. An elected NUS officer will be expected to attend at least one of these meetings each year.
9. Every meeting will be attended by an elected NUS representative (NEC).
10. An elected NUS Vice President/President will be expected to attend at least one of these meetings each year.
11. To investigate the possibility of facilitating regional representation in trade unions for Students' Union Officers.

Conference Believes:

1. That different Universities organise themselves into 'groups' based on areas such as research excellence and teaching and learning.
2. That a number of Universities do not sit within a mission group.
3. That Student Unions do not have system that mirrors that of the University they sit alongside.
4. That in response to several conference mandates in previous years, NUS has increased its work to support Small and Specialist Students' Unions
5. Given the large proportion of the membership these Unions constitute, this work is to be celebrated and encouraged
6. For the same reason, this work should now be expanded

Conference Further Believes:

1. That there are a number of benefits for institutions of being in a group.
2. That Student Unions could benefit from a similar set up to that of University mission groups through working collaboratively and sharing best practice with those institutions that they are similar to.

3. That Student Unions tend to work and associate with those Unions geographically close to them rather than Unions which are similar.
4. That we should develop a union mission group system.
5. That most Small and Specialist Unions have limited financial resources and thus are limited in the staff they can hire
6. That these Unions must often choose, when creating staff structures, whether to prioritise front-line services for students (such as advice workers, clubs and societies coordinators or campaign staff etc.) or back room operations (such as managers, finance staff etc.)
7. That this can leave these unions, and their members, without sufficient provision in either area
8. That by combining resources many of these unions could work together to provide support and training to current staff and possibly even some back room services
9. That even larger, more resource-rich unions may find sharing back room staffing more efficient

Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate the Vice President Union Development to undertake research into how Student Unions work collaboratively and share best practice.
2. To mandate the Vice President Union Development to establish a mission group system for Student Unions based on the indicators that fall within the Quality Mark and undertake extensive consultation with Student Unions regarding what networks would help them.
3. That NUS will investigate the possibility of either NUS providing back room services centrally or NUS facilitating unions (either by region or relative need) jointly purchasing back room services
4. To support the creation of a Small and Specialist Staff Network
5. To support (and, where possible, finance) this group to create training events which these unions could not otherwise finance on their own
6. To support Small and Specialist Unions in reviewing their staff structures and help them identify hiring and training priorities

Motion 412 | Democratic Students' Unions

Conference believes

1. Clear, open, democratic structures are essential to develop the culture of involvement, mobilisation, activism and accountability we need.
2. The interests of student unions and management are fundamentally counterposed
3. In FE, unions frequently do not have access to basic resources, such as membership lists and means of communicating with members
4. Where unions are effective, they will come under pressure from management to stop their activities. This should be resisted.
5. University and College managers are increasingly seeking to interfere with union autonomy in relation to campus dissent and protest. At the University of Birmingham, a candidate was suspended by the University in relation to protest activity and almost prevented from running in elections.
6. Liberation is a key part of being a democratic union. Having structures that reflect Liberation is not a magic bullet, but it is good and we should urge CMs to introduce and improve them in line with NUS Liberation Campaigns' guidance.

Conference resolves

1. NUS to issue democratic guidance to Union's which encourage;
 - a. Important decisions should be made by students and their elected representatives.
 - b. Autonomous Liberation campaigns in every Students' Union, and where possible full-time Liberation officers.
2. To campaign for Students' Union independence, including:

- a. A basic and legally enforceable minimum standard for unions in FE and HE, including access to independent resources and space; means of communication with members; automatic annual elections; security of funding; and existence and representation within institutional structures.
- b. Independent and accountable returning officers for union elections, who have no employment or trusteeship connection with the institution.
- c. A drive to create full-time elected officers in small and specialist and FE unions.
3. NUS to issue guidance to Students' Unions that, where students are suspended from the University as a result of their participation in protest activity, they should continue to remain full members of their Students' Union.
4. To issue guidance, and include in the Summer Training programmes, on how officers and student reps can tackle and work around undue interference of university management and senior SU staff.

Motion 413 | From 1994 to 2034: the next generation of the student movement

Conference believes:

1. The 1994 Education Act and the 2006 Charities Act together establish the principle of independent, well-governed and representative students' unions.
2. As the further and higher education sectors have evolved students' unions have as well; they are diverse in mission, scope and levels of resource.
3. Students' unions are increasingly interwoven into the fabric of national education regulation: across the UK we have a presumption of student participation in governance, frameworks for learner and student voice, management of complaints and appeals and student engagement.
4. Twenty years on from the Education Act it is timely to reaffirm the right of every student to organise and seek representation through an independent students' union, and to reflect on how students' unions might evolve in the next twenty years.

Conference resolves

1. To consult widely within the student movement and with the further and higher education sectors on the development of a White Paper setting out proposals to ensure students' unions are recognised in law, continue to be well-governed and are sufficiently resourced to carry out their mission of amplifying the student voice, helping students be powerful and improving students' lives.
2. To consider the diverse purposes and activities of students' unions and how these might be more fully developed and supported in a complex and changing educational environment with multiple external pressures.
3. To explore the legal and regulatory frameworks for students' unions and lobby to strengthen these.
4. To use the current legal and regulatory frameworks available to us and any future legislation we may achieve to take steps to establish independent collective student representative bodies where they currently do not exist.

Motion 414 | For a living wage in our institutions

Conference believes:

1. The highest pay in the HE sector averages £248,292 per year.
2. Many workers in universities are paid the National Minimum Wage, and workers across the sector have had their pay cut by 13% since 2008.
3. Many Universities and Colleges still employ large numbers of staff for less than the Living Wage, and often on highly casualised contracts.

Conference further believes:

1. All workers should be paid at least the Living Wage

Conference resolves:

1. To support SUs campaigning for the Living Wage, and publicise how workers at University of London and elsewhere have won it through industrial action.
2. To call for all students unions to lead by example in paying all workers, including student staff, the Living Wage.

Motion 415 | SU autonomy and building pan-London representation

Conference believes

1. There are 800,000 students in London. These members face acute and specific issues, and if mobilised could make a massive impact. NEC recognised London as an Area in autumn.
2. Following a review, the University of London has declared its intention to shut down its federal student union, ULU, from August 2014, which alongside college unions represents around a third of all HE students in London. No student sat on the Review Panel, and no student sat on any body which approved it.
3. ULU and NUS London have adopted positions opposing the outcomes of the ULU Review and campaigning for ULU's building and services to remain in student hands.

Conference further believes

1. An injury to one is an injury to all. Regardless of how unique ULU is, the shutting down of ULU presents a major attack on students' right to organise and on SU independence.
2. There has been a failure of leadership in NUS HQ around this issue and pan-London representation more generally, despite having policy to campaign on it and enthusiasm from CMs.
3. Other regions should have a better advertised opportunity to explore the possibility of Area organisations.

Conference resolves

1. To condemn and campaign against the processes and outcomes of the ULU Review
2. To affirm the sovereignty of NUS London Area, and support NUS London and ULU in their campaigns to keep ULU's building and services in student hands.
3. To actively explore the feasibility and desirability of creating NUS Areas in other parts of the country, in consultation with unions.

Motion 417 | The next opportunity...

Conference believes:

1. This is the first year NUS has taken Student opportunities (work on societies, sports, volunteering and media) seriously and welcomes the work in this area.
2. The work carried out has supported student activities officers and staff across the country create a national network and support each other to develop student groups.
3. NUS should continue to prioritise work in this area and recognise the important role student opportunities have within our students' unions.
4. The work supporting students' unions diversify their candidates in elections and breaking down barriers in our democracy is important and needs to be reflected in the democracy of our student groups.
5. There are many national organisations that support student groups we can create further partnerships with, especially within media and charities.
6. There has been a lack of work with Student Enterprise, something which would add value for student groups and student social enterprises.
7. There has been a worrying increase of institutions taking over this activity from students unions and we absolutely believe they should be run by students for students.

8. There are still too many places where timetabling is still a problem and there is no dedicated time for students to play sport, volunteer, work and run societies.
9. It is positive that a number of independent national associations exist to promote areas of student activity such as National Association of Student Television Association (NASTA) and National Student Fundraising Association (NaSFA).

Conference resolves:

1. To hold a student opportunities conference during the summer, bringing staff and officers together and invite external organisations such as BUCS, Media groups, volunteering and charities to support this.
2. To develop more resources and support for unions that have no to very few clubs, societies and media.
3. Research the diversity of leadership in student groups, produce specific guidance and innovative structures to support the research that allows our student groups to be more reflective of their members.
4. Run pilot projects connecting student groups across cities and regions, bringing together campaigning societies and clubs to tackle local issues.
5. To create an external partner database and that brings together national organisations and charities that have student links, creating a 'way into students' union manual' to educate them on how to best work with students' unions.
6. Develop a local version that supports students' unions create local ties with key partners that support student groups with common causes. Capture where strong community ties exist and share in other areas.
7. Identify organisations that fund student enterprise and hold a students' union enterprise events and training, pulling in funding to unions and student groups for social enterprise.
8. NUS should hold a national enquiry into timetabling and extra circular activity, this should include bringing BUCS, volunteer organisations and institution representation to have the debate nationally about the importance of dedicated timetabling space.
9. To support and encourage the formation of a National Association of Student Societies and Activities (NASSA) and support the establishment of associated awards.
10. To support the development of a national accreditation brand of 'Societies Stripes' awarded for individual recognition for outstanding contribution towards student Societies and Activities.'

Motions submitted to this meeting of the National Executive Council

Motion 1: Student Carers and Parents

NEC Believes:

1. NUS has many representative structures for different types of students, but does not have any dedicated structure for student parents or for student carers.
2. There is no channel for student parents and carers to express their voices on issues that affect them or to collaboratively develop policy.
3. NUS' core purpose is to "promote, defend and extend the rights of students", and this must include those students who are parents or who have caring responsibilities.
4. Rule changes were submitted to National Conference (2013 AGM) but were not discussed for lack of time.

NEC Resolves:

1. To create a temporary representative structure for Student Parents and Carers:
2. To create the Student Parents and Carers Committee as a NEC Committee, effective 1st July 2014 that will operate in accordance with the terms of reference below.
3. The NEC will appoint a lead officer for Student Parent and Student Carers at its first meeting of each year from the NUS full-time officers (including those who are not members of the NEC), who will have authority to speak for NUS on matters affecting Student Parents and Student Carers.
4. To hold a Student Parents and Carers Conference in 2014/15.
5. To consult with constituent members and student parents and carers:

6. The National President will launch a consultation on the future of representation within NUS for Student Parents and Student Carers, and the best way to incorporate these groups within NUS' democratic structures.

7. This review will conclude in time for the NEC to bring rule changes to National Conference in 2015, and this policy and the temporary structure above will cease to have effect if permanent rules changes are adopted by National Conference that create a representative structure for Student Parents and Student Carers.

NUS Student Parents and Carers Committee – Terms of Reference

Membership

1. The Student Parents and Carers Committee will be composed of individual members of NUS who wish to join the committee and are both:

A parent or someone with caring responsibilities, and members of one or more of the groups listed below.

2. The groups are:

- The National Executive Council;
- Liberation Campaigns Committees;
- Student Sections Committees;
- Nations committees;
- Zone Committees;
- Members elected by any Conference composed of delegates from Constituent Members that is recognised by the National Executive Council to represent Student Parents and Carers.

The lead full-time officer appointed by the National Executive Council to represent Student Parents and Carers will be an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Remit

The remit of the Committee is to:

- a. Represent Student Parents and Carers within NUS;
- b. Discuss issues affecting Student Parents and Carers;
- c. Develop policy on Student Parents and Carers, and to submit this to the National Executive Council for adoption.

Organisation

The lead full-time officer appointed by the National Executive Council to represent Student Parents and Carers shall chair the Committee.

In all other aspects relating to its organisation and procedures, the Committee will follow the rules of NEC Committees.

Motion 2 | We need Hope, not Hate

NEC Believes

1. That racism and fascism can be beaten on the streets but also at the ballot box
2. That the rise of UKIP is a dangerous one pushing the conservatives further to the right
3. Hope not hate have been brilliant in highlighting the real UKIP
4. They have also been active in campaigning against the BNP in the NW
5. NUS must always stand with progressive anti racist groups
6. Anti racism and anti fascism should be centre of our movement

NUS resolves

1. To affiliate with Hope not Hate
2. For NEC members to encourage CM's to do the same

Motion 3 | Ukraine Conflict

NEC believes:

1. The right of nations to self-determination is an important part of democracy.

NEC further believes:

1. Russia, the historical and recent oppressor of Ukraine, is attempting to regain political control of the country.
2. In the current clash between Russia and Ukraine, we support the Ukrainians' right to defend their independence against Russian imperialism.

NEC resolves:

1. We call for an end to Russian aggression against Ukraine.
2. Our number one emphasis and priority is making links with students' organisations, workers' organisations and other progressive and democratic forces in Ukraine, supporting them against both Russian aggression and Ukraine's right-wing government and growing right-wing nationalist movement.
3. We will also publicise and support the struggles of the anti-war movement in Russia, and call on the British government and other Western powers to stop seeking to impose neo-liberal economic policies on Ukraine and instead cancel the country's debts.

Emergency motion | Defend the DSA – reject the cuts

NEC believes:

1. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills announced changes to Disabled Students' Allowances on Monday 7 April
2. The changes seek to restrict the provision of laptops to disabled students unless they have 'complex' needs
3. They also seek to shift responsibility for the provision of 'basic' non-medical support on to institutions
4. The changes will take effect for new students from the 2015/16 academic year
5. At National Conference, an emergency motion was passed to condemn the decision and to campaign against the cuts.

NEC further believes:

1. These are deeply dangerous proposals, and assume that disabled students are all able to afford their own laptop, and all institutions able to afford to fund the non-medical support their students require
2. Many disabled students cannot afford their own laptop, or one at the specification necessary to utilise specialist assistive software
3. Those institutions who do best at recruiting disabled students often have the least resources and therefore are disproportionately affected by the proposals
6. Disabled students should not have to fight for the support they need to achieve in their studies any more than they already do
7. The proposals come in the context of cuts to disabled people's benefit and local authority support
8. This motion further shows NUS' commitment to campaign against the cuts and to support the Disabled Students' Campaign.

NEC resolves:

1. To mandate the VP Welfare and VP Higher Education to campaign to oppose these cuts and support the Disabled Students Campaign.
2. To oppose any proposal which negatively impacts on students
3. To work to support students' unions to campaign on this locally
4. To share the campaign ideas and other materials with constituent members
5. To commit to supporting Disabled Students' Campaign Committee in doing phone rounds to students' unions
6. To promote the NUS Constituency Lobby Date for the date is now confirmed as Friday 6th June
7. To work on this campaign with any partner organisations who share our objectives.

Emergency motion | Lambeth College Struggle

NEC believes

1. That on 7 May Unison announced that its members at Lambeth College had voted 83 percent to strike over attacks on their terms and conditions.
2. That this came after the 30 April decision by a judge to issue an injunction preventing UCU members at the college going on all-out strike - despite the fact they had voted 95 percent to strike.

NEC further believes

1. That both UCU and Unison the college plan to be on strike soon.
2. That this is an extremely important and potentially precedent-setting dispute in terms of defending FE from the cuts and casualisation that are gutting it – vital not just for staff but for the future of students' education too.
3. That we should seek to mobilise the movement to ensure that the Lambeth College workers win.

NEC resolves

1. To promote and mobilise for the UCU demonstration in Lambeth on 17 May.
2. To promote and mobilise for the National Day of Action on 22 May.
3. To publish a statement of support for the Lambeth College workers spelling out the significance of the dispute for FE and condemning the college management's use of legal intimidation against the workers.
4. To establish a working group in support of the dispute including the VP FE and any other NEC member who wishes to be part of it.
5. To ask the VP FE to contact UCU, Unison and the student union at the college to discuss support for the strike.
6. To ask Constituent Members to send messages of support and make donations/raise money for the strike fund.

Emergency motion | UCU marking boycott

NEC Believes:

1. The ongoing UK-wide pay dispute in HE, in which staff in universities are fighting against a real-terms pay cut of up to 13%.
2. That UCU have announced a marking boycott starting from the 28th of April
3. That this action may mean students are unable to graduate or progress.

NEC further believes:

1. That universities and the HE sector have the money to pay staff fairly.
2. That the belligerence demonstrated by university managements and UCEA in the dispute so far show the need for staff to take action beyond traditional one-day strikes.
3. That students being unable to graduate or progress is a disgrace but that the blame for this lies squarely and exclusively with the management of institutions, not with the staff unions.
4. That management will attempt to drive a wedge between students and staff in order to break the strike.
5. That support from students can play a decisive role in winning this dispute for staff and ensuring that nobody is prevented from graduating or progressing.
6. That the long-term impact to students of staff losing this dispute will be far greater than the short-term impact of this action.

NEC resolves:

1. To reaffirm our support for university staff in this dispute.
2. To communicate this support to UCU, EIS, Unison and Unite, as well as to UCEA.
3. To communicate this support and our firm believe that UCEA and university management are to blame to our members.
4. To support students and students' associations who wish to complain about the impact this will have on them and their members to do so to UCEA and university management.

NEC Policy Passed 2014/15

Meeting 1: 4 August 2014

Motion 1 | SRE: It's My Right

NEC Believes:

1. There are currently no statutory requirements within the schools curriculum to provide sex and relationships education (SRE) in any part of the UK.
2. NUS' policy passed on sex and relationships education at National Conference 2013.
3. Campaigning for statutory SRE in schools is part of NUS' General Election strategy.
4. The Sex Education Forum is a membership coalition of organisations campaigning for SRE as well as creating and providing resources for delivering successful SRE programmes. It is hosted by the National Children's Bureau and contains representatives from health, education, faith, disability and children's organisations.
5. The Sex Education Forum has recently launched the 'SRE: It's My Right' campaign.

NEC Further Believes:

1. NUS cannot and should not campaign for SRE in isolation and should be working in partnership with other organisations who champion this issue.
2. Becoming a member of the Sex Education Forum will strengthen NUS' position in campaigning for SRE, as well as meaning NUS has the opportunity to shape policy positions and campaigns that come from the Sex Education Forum.

NEC Resolves:

6. To apply to become a member of the Sex Education Forum.
7. To work with the Sex Education Forum in the run up to the General Election, and beyond.

Motion 2 | Condemn the collective punishment and killings in Gaza

NEC Believes:

1. Within two weeks of launching Operation 'Protective Edge', the Israeli army has killed over 630 Palestinians, injured over 3800 and displaced over 118,000 with over 80% of deaths being civilians.[1]
2. Many of the Palestinians deaths have come from Israel's deliberate bombing of their homes, which has been condemned as illegal by the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem. On Saturday 13th of July 21 people were killed when Israel bombed the home of a Palestinian police chief. [1] Others targeted have included special needs care homes, parks and charities [2] [3]
3. These latest attacks are in the context of the population of the Gaza strip being subject to a blockade described by the Director of UNRWA Operations as a "Medieval siege" and as a "prison camp" by Prime Minister David Cameron. [4] [5]
4. Israel's blockade has been described as "collective punishment imposed in clear violation of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law" by the International Committee of the Red Cross. [6]
5. Due to longstanding effects of the blockade and the recent assaults, medical and electricity supplies have run critically low in Gaza, further worsening the humanitarian crisis. [7] [8]

6. Israel has vowed to ignore international pressure and to continue escalating, while the Palestinian government has called on the international community to take 'serious measures' to end Israel's violations. [9] [10]
7. A series of mass demonstrations have taken place across the UK against Israeli attacks, including over 10,000 in London.

NEC Resolves:

1. To condemn Israel's attacks on Gaza and to support calls for an immediate ceasefire.
2. To condemn the blockade of Gaza and support campaigns for it to be lifted in accordance with international law.
3. To continue to support existing NUS policy on companies like Veolia or Eden Springs which have been identified as being complicit in human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine. [11]

[1] <http://www.timesofisrael.com/21-said-killed-in-strike-on-gaza-police-chiefs-house/>

[2] <http://www.maannnews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=712476>

[3]

http://www.pchrgaza.org/portal/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10474:a&catid=36:pchrpressreleases&Itemid=194

[4] <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/features/lebanese-children-raise-funds-build-kindergarten-gaza>

[5] <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/palestinianauthority/7912095/Gaza-is-a-prison-camp-says-David-Cameron.html>

[6] <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/update/palestine-update-140610.htm>

[7] <http://www.firstpost.com/world/gaza-healthcare-services-on-the-verge-of-collapsing-who-1613911.html>

[8] <http://www.maannnews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=712153>

[9] <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/07/11/israel-wont-stop-gaza-offensive-despite-international-pressure-prime-minister-benjamin-netanyahu-says/>

[10] <http://alray.ps/en/index.php?act=post&id=4934#.U8Nqp7Gyo-d>

[11] <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/eden-springs-and-veolia/>

Amendment 1

This motion was composited to be heard as a standalone motion.

NEC Resolves:

1. To demand Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Territories, and the creation of a really independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, with the same rights as Israel.

Amendment 2

This motion was composited to be heard as a standalone motion.

NEC Believes:

1. The Israeli army stands accused of using illegal weapons including white phosphorus bombs and DIME (Dense Inert Metal Explosive) weapons on one of the most densely-populated regions of the world, and with targets consisting mainly of civilians.[2]
2. This disregard for human rights and international law stands consist with Israel's conduct during previous assaults on Gaza, including 2008/09's 'Cast Lead' and 2012's 'Pillar of Defence'.
3. That extensive funding and military aid to Israel from Western countries helps perpetuate Israel's abuses and relieves the financial pressure of warfare; the UK government also facilitates heavy arms trading and co-operation with Israel, marking their complicity in this and previous massacres.[3],[4]
4. That with leading Israeli politicians calling for effective genocide, ethnic cleansing of, and war crimes against Palestinians, appealing to their political establishment on a purely moral basis would be naïve.[5],[6],[7]

5. That with the British government unwilling to even condemn Israel for this assault, it is now incumbent upon the public and civil institutions to exert economic and political pressure to convince Israel to abide by international law.
6. That since the launch of the assault other countries have taken substantive action, such as Chile having suspended trade talks with Israel.[8]
7. There is precedent for economic leverage against Israeli crimes, with a further 12 EU countries recently following the UK's earlier move in issuing explicit warnings to investors against doing business with Israeli settlements due to their contravention of international law.[9],[10]
8. NUS has previously affirmed active opposition to companies complicit in human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine as negatively impacting on chances for a sustainable and just settlement.
9. NUS Black Students' Campaign, NUS London and NUS Scotland have voted to support Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against companies and products supporting Israeli aggression and occupation.

NEC Resolves:

1. To call on the British government to condemn Israel's current assault on Gaza, cease aid and funding to Israel, impose an arms embargo against Israel, and to demand a ceasefire brokered between legitimate Israeli and Palestinian representatives.
2. To issue a call to our membership to boycott companies and corporations complicit in financing and aiding Israel's military, including G4S and Hewlett Packard.
3. To provide information and resources to support student unions and student organisations campaigning for boycott and divestment of companies identified as supporting Israel materially, economically, militarily, and/or as helping maintain the illegal Israeli settlements.
4. To conduct an internal audit of NUS services, products and departments to ensure they do not, as far as is practical, employ or work with companies identified as facilitating Israel's military capacity, human rights abuses or illegal settlement activity, and actively work to cut ties with those that do.

[1] <http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/victims-gaza-list-palestinians-killed-israels-ongoing-assault>

[2] <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/12939-israel-uses-illegal-weapons-in-gaza>

[3] <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/07/activists-demanding-israel.html>

[4] <http://www.bdsmovement.net/2014/nobel-celebrities-call-for-military-embargo-12316>

[5] <http://www.stopwar.org.uk/news/gaza-bombarded-as-israel-s-leaders-demand-blood-after-students-bodies-found#.U880LLGTHtI>

[6] <http://www.dailysabah.com/mideast/2014/07/14/mothers-of-all-palestinians-should-also-be-killed-says-israeli-politician>

[7] <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/expel-palestinians-populate-gaza-jews-says-knesset-deputy-speaker>

[8] <http://www.worldbulletin.net/world/140840/chile-to-suspend-trade-talks-with-israel-over-gaza-bombing>

[9] <http://euobserver.com/foreign/124873>

[10] <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/10507081/UK-warns-investors-against-doing-business-with-Israeli-settlements.html>

Motion 12 | Time for Peace

This motion was composited as a standalone motion with the exception of some text which was composited as resolves 6 into the motion "Palestinian and Israeli International Students"

NEC Believes:

1. On June 12th 2014 three Israeli teenagers, Eyal Yifrach, Naftali Fraenkel and Gilad Shaar, were kidnapped and murdered in an act of terror
2. On July 2nd 2014 Palestinian teenager Mohammed Abu Khdeir was kidnapped and murdered in an act of terror

3. The recent escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine has caused significant damage to civilian life for both Israelis and Palestinians
4. Both the escalation of rocket fire from Gaza into cities in Israel as well as the concentrated military operation, Protective Edge, in Gaza has put civilians on the front line, resulting in loss of homes and life, and are barriers to peace
5. In response to the current situation there has been an increase in Islamophobic and anti-Semitic incidents within the region and the wider world, including Europe and the UK

NEC Further Believes

1. NUS over the years has a history of fighting for justice and showing solidarity with those suffering in Israel and Palestine
2. NUS should actively support students studying in the UK who are affected by the current situation in the region
3. NUS should seek to provide a platform for all students to express their thoughts and engage with the situation in a respectful way, without violence or intimidation

NEC Resolves

1. To promote a message of peaceful coexistence amongst all people in the region, and invite a Palestinian student and an Israeli student to speak at NUS National Conference 2015
2. To actively raise awareness of and combat all forms of racism including but not limited to, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, that may and have occurred in response to recent events in the region
3. To support grassroots activism on campuses between Israeli and Palestinian students (incl. allies), such as coexistence projects and campaigns that seek to open dialogue and respect in a safe space.

Palestinian and Israeli International Students

This motion was composited as a standalone motion with exception of NEC Resolves 6 which was composited from the motion 'Time for Peace'

NEC Believes:

1. Whilst there has been much damage in civilian lives and property in Palestine-Israel conflict and hence more possibility that international students from there must be more directly affected, for us, the life and well-being of every international student studying in the UK is precious.
2. International students finishing their studies this summer will come to the end of their Tier 4 visa, and will required to leave the country. It is deeply wrong to expect any student to leave the UK when returning home would put them at risk of serious harm.
3. We recognise that all students returning to their homes in areas of conflict are put at increased and unacceptable risk of harm, regardless of nationality, passport, community or religion.
4. Crises can cause the infrastructure of a country or region to fail. This can include bank transfers, qualifications checks and other administration. Many UK universities notify their students they are at risk of expulsion if they do not pay their fees on time.
5. It is within the power of the UK government to extend student visas for students from countries and regions in crisis. As the government has the ability, it also has the responsibility and duty to do so.
6. As the duty of NUS is to represent and support all students, it should ensure that the plight of affected international students in the UK is not overlooked by the British government.

NEC Resolves:

1. To lobby the government to grant any affected international students an extension to remain in the UK on their current student visa and to ensure no affected international student must return to a conflict zone to alter their visa status.

2. To lobby the government to inform students of their right to seek asylum and make it easier for the affected students to seek asylum if they wish to.
3. To call on all UK universities and colleges to waive or reduce the fees or extend the payment periods for all the students affected by the conflict, whether sponsored or self-funded, so that they can complete their studies.
4. To call on all UK universities to make hardship grants, scholarships and bursaries available to all the affected students, whether sponsored or privately funded, to cover their living expenses.
5. To call on all UK universities and the UK education sector to make available appropriate support structures to ensure affected students have access to the health, well-being and academic support they require in this time of crisis.
6. To reach out to and provide support for Israeli and Palestinian students studying in the UK whose time in the UK may be affected by the current situation with particular regard to visa and financial difficulties

Emergency motion | Birmingham Suspensions

NEC believes:

1. That the University of Birmingham has suspended two students for 9 months in relation to their involvement in an occupation in November 2013
2. That a third student will be suspended if they break any further regulations.
3. That the process has taken 8 months and concerns have been raised about procedural irregularities.
4. That the University of Birmingham originally recommended expelling one of the students.
5. That the occupation was calling for the implementation of the living wage and for the university to stop lobbying for fees to be increased amongst other demands.
6. National conference resolved in Amendment 203b to "Create a legal fund to support students facing charges or legal costs as a result of repression"

NEC further believes:

1. That students have a right to protest and occupations are a legitimate tactic in defence of our education.
2. That these students have been victimised for their political activity.
3. That this is an attack on the right to protest and freedom of expression and an attempt to suppress dissent by preventing these students from taking part in protests and deterring others from doing the same,
4. That this sets a dangerous precedent for the ability of students across the country to engage in protest without fear of repression

NEC resolves:

1. To support the campaign to overturn the suspensions and defend the right for students to protest on campus.
2. To use money from the legal fund to help these students pay for legal costs

Emergency motion | Home Office action against Tier 4 Visa Sponsors: Sanctions, Suspensions and Revocations

NEC Believes:

1. Home Office action has led to sixty institutions having their ability to recruit international students suspended, and it is clear that in some of these cases there will be full licence revocation meaning that students cannot finish their courses and may be detained and deported.
2. This week the Prime Minister announced further tightening of the student visa regime, stating that in future if more than ten percent of applicants to an institution are refused a visa, that institution will lose its licence. Last

week another university suspended international student recruitment, and it became clear that in some cases deportation processes related to this issue have already begun. The Immigration Minister has made it clear that further investigations are likely to result in more institutions losing their licences. These recent events amount to a developing emergency in the student visa system and the treatment of international students.

3. The institutions involved are spread across the higher and further education sectors and across public and private status institutions; the students involved are united by the common issue that they have no control over the causes of these actions and that they are being held to be guilty until proven innocent.
4. The Immigration Minister's choice to announce action against these universities and colleges in Parliament was a wholly inappropriate way to inform international students their futures were in jeopardy.
5. The government's attempts to pass the blame for fraud within the immigration system onto international students and UK education institutions is inappropriate and shameful, given the company responsible was licensed by the government itself.
6. Thousands of international students have been wrongly criminalized by the Immigration Minister and the media for a system they are helpless to change or avoid and it is appalling that no political party stood up for international students as this announcement was being debated in the House of Commons.
7. Until the education sector is certain the investigations are complete and all action that will be taken has been, international students cannot be certain that the institutions they move to will not also be subject to suspension and/or revocation of their Tier 4 license for this reason.
8. As more institutions have their licenses revoked, the UK education system will be flooded with tens of thousands of international students urgently seeking a new place to study, and as the burden becomes too much for the sector, international students will be forced to leave the UK without the qualifications they came for.
9. Both the government and the UK education sector have learned nothing from the terrible experiences of London Metropolitan international students in 2012 when their institution had its license revoked.
10. International students deserve to have refunds for a qualification they cannot finish, to not have to pay for a second visa that they did not plan for, and to receive help and support to move from an institution without a Tier 4 license to one with a Tier 4 license.
11. This action is a clear and deliberate attempt by the government to decrease net migration figures from "hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands" at the expense of international students.
12. International students are left in a system with no recourse, no refunds and no rights simply because of their nationality, a clear case of state sponsored discrimination.

NEC Resolves:

1. To condemn any Members of Parliament who use anti-immigration rhetoric and inaccurate information in a discriminatory campaign against international students.
2. To lobby the government for practical solutions for the affected international students such as refunds of tuition fees, scrapping of visa renewal cost and lowered maintenance requirements
3. To lobby universities and colleges to fully, financially and practically, support a system to move any affected international students to a new institution to continue their course without financial or emotional burdens.
4. To lobby the UK education sector and the government to create a workable tuition fee protection scheme paid for by the sector, which protects all future international students in this situation.
5. To lobby MPs and political parties to support international students in the current situation and change the Tier 4 immigration system so it gives rights and a voice to international students who study in the UK.

Meeting 2: 16 September 2014

Motion 1 | Shahrokh Zamani and Reza Shahabi solidarity

NEC Believes:

1. The ongoing imprisonment and severe mistreatment of Iranian trade unionists Shahrokh Zamani (painters' union) and Reza Shahabi (Tehran bus workers' union).

NEC Resolves:

1. To express our solidarity with comrades Shahrokh Zamani and Reza Shahabi, write to the Iranian government and embassy demanding their release, ask Constituent Members to do the same.

Motion 3 | Fighting for free education and decent jobs for all

NEC Believes:

1. National Conference 2014 voted by a substantial majority, after a long and passionate debate, to "oppose and campaign against all methods of charging students for education – including tuition fees and a 'graduate tax' which is nothing more than a euphemism for 'student debt'." It voted "to make the case for free education and demand that free, accessible, quality education, and decent wages, public services and benefits, are funded by:

"a. Ending tax evasion and avoidance and cracking down on tax havens

"b. Imposing serious taxes on the incomes, inheritance and capital gains of the rich

"c. Taking the banks, and their wealth, under democratic control"

2. National conference voted to campaign around the slogan "Fund decent jobs for all", by fighting for "expanded public services to create socially useful, secure, well-paid jobs", with associated demands around job security and the Living Wage.
3. Since National Conference, a coalition of student groups & campaigns have come together to call a national demo on November 19th under the banner of 'Free education: no fees, no cuts, no debt.'
4. The TUC are organising a national march and rally on Saturday 18 October under the banner 'Britain needs a pay rise'.
5. NUS National Conference 2014 resolved to "support a TUC national demonstration focused on pathways to work and fair and sustainable jobs ahead of the 2015 general election."
The NUS should put serious effort into mobilising students to attend the TUC national demo and have a visible presence on the day.
6. At its annual Congress at the end of May 2014, the University and College Union invited NUS to call jointly with UCU a national demonstration to take place in Autumn 2014 "against the continuing privatisation of UK higher education and a return to a publicly funded and democratically accountable sector".
7. As of this writing the forming policies of all major UK political parties call for continued austerity after the 2015 general election.

NEC Further Believes:

1. With a year until the general election, there are clear opportunities to make substantial gains for students, if we put out a clear message and mobilise the movement.

2. Based on policy passed by conference, we should be campaigning for a free, well-funded education system at every level and the creation of secure jobs with decent rights and a living wage. These policies entail a radical redistribution of wealth and power by taxation of the rich and big business.
3. Any national movement against austerity in education must be in the hands of a broad base of students and workers in order to be a success.

NEC Resolves:

1. To affirm that NUS will campaign on these themes over the next year, using slogans such as "Fund free education – tax the rich" and "Fund decent jobs for all – tax the rich" when we march with the TUC on October 18th.
2. To formally endorse the national demonstration on November 19 and encourage unions to mobilise for it, and to advise the demonstration organisers on necessary safety measures to put in place
3. To also emphasise how cuts, unemployment and debt hit the most oppressed hardest, and the liberation aspect of these policies.
4. To issue a press release setting out support for the demonstration and the politics in this motion.
5. To support a 'student bloc' at the demonstration of the Tory party conference and a lobby at Labour Party conference around these themes.
6. To organise a student block on the TUC national demonstration on Saturday 18 October.
7. To mobilise students across the UK to join the protest by producing leaflets & posters and using NUS' website, social media and email lists.
8. To write to UCU inviting them to support & take part in organizing the student demonstration called for this date.

Motion 5 | Getting Out The Vote

NEC Believes:

1. The General Election is going to be held on Thursday 7th May 2015, less than a year away.
2. The European Parliament elections were held on Thursday 22nd May 2014.
3. The European Parliament elections were regrettably a success for the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), and that the far-right, anti-immigration, homophobic and racist organisation took the most seats.
4. The British National Party (BNP) lost both of their seats, and although this is to be celebrated, the rise of UKIP is still terrifying.
5. The values of NUS promote inclusivity, equality and fairness, and that UKIP's policies are in direct contradiction to those values.
6. During the European Parliament elections in 2010, NUS sent out an email on polling day to every student email address on all of our databases warning them of the dangers of the BNP and UKIP.
7. That this email encouraged students to go out and cast their vote, but warned them against doing so for the BNP or UKIP.
8. This government is removing the block registration of students living in university accommodation, effectively disenfranchising thousands of students in a general election.
9. This government has launched an attack on students while simultaneously removing their right to recourse as seen in the lobbying bill and individual electoral registration.
10. NUS has no platformed the BNP as a racist and fascist organisation.
11. NUS NEC has recently determined UKIP to be a racist party.
12. NUS must play a big role in preventing the rise of racism, fascism and homophobia in society, especially in our country's political system.

NEC Resolves:

1. For the National President to email every student contact we have (including but not limited to the NUS Extra database and the CRM) on polling day of the General Election, urging them to use their votes but warning them of the dangers of the BNP and UKIP and urging them to boycott these political parties at the ballot box.
2. NUS will encourage and support Student Unions in electoral registration drives developing resources encouraging students to register and offering clear guidance about Student Unions role in ensuring students can vote.

Motion 6 | Defeating the rise in anti-Semitism

NEC Believes:

1. Students' unions should remain safe spaces for all students where different views can be challenged in an open, supportive and constructive environment, without anyone feeling threatened.
2. Hate crimes against minorities in the UK and in Europe are on the rise. LGBT hate crime has rose year on year rising by 1% each year since 2009 now accounting for nearly 15% of all reported hate crimes in the UK [1], Islamophobic hate crime rising 400% in the week after the killing of Lee Rigby [2].
3. That the Macpherson report of the Lawrence Inquiry's final report stated that "a racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or the other person".
4. That according to the Community Security Trust, between January to June 2014 there were 304 anti-Semitic incidents in the UK, a 36% rise from the same period in 2013. Furthermore, during the latest war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, there were at least 240 anti-Semitic incidents recorded in the UK alone.
5. Worldwide, during the same period there have been a multitude of anti-Semitic incidents including synagogues being firebombed in Paris, and Jewish community centres in Europe being attacked. In Britain, a rabbi was attacked nearby to a Jewish boarding school. In Australia, a bus carrying Jewish schoolchildren was targeted by teenagers who boarded the bus, shouted "Heil Hitler" and threatened to slit the children's throats.
6. Figures suggest that as a result of the recent upsurge in anti-Semitic hate crime in the UK, 2014 may end up as having one of the highest annual totals since CST began recording anti-Semitism in the UK, in 1984.
7. Debates around Israel-Palestine are highly contested and have resulted at times to a deterioration of good and healthy campus relations.
8. Dialogue is the best way to solve conflict on campus and in the wider world. NUS plays a vital role in creating a safe space on campus for dialogue and discussion.

NEC Further Believes:

1. NUS has a history of championing ARAF campaigns and supporting all students of minority backgrounds during their time in education.
2. All forms of racism are abhorrent and should be opposed.
3. Anti-Semitism is a specific form of racism, relating to Jewish people and Judaism.

NEC Resolves:

1. To strengthen existing interfaith initiatives and to encourage the fostering of good relations between religious groups on campus.
2. To ensure the safety of our members as a fundamental priority during their time in Further or Higher Education.
3. To provide training, tools and support to officers on how to deal with conflict on campus.
4. To reaffirm NUS's strong opposition to anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all forms of racism and discrimination.
- 5.

[1] http://www.stonewall.org.uk/what_we_do/research_and_policy/9286.asp

[2] <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/07/uk-report-anti-muslim-hate-crime-rising-20147512135922796.html>

Motion 7 | Care Leavers and education

NEC Believes:

1. Policy passed at NUS National Conference this year mandated NUS officers to work with the Buttle Trust on the Quality Mark and Who Cares? Trust on the HE handbook. Since National Conference neither organisation is continuing this work.
2. The Buttle Quality Mark is now no longer being supported in England & Wales, but has been funded until the end of 2014/15 by the Scottish Funding Council for institutions in Scotland.
3. The Buttle Quality Mark was the only framework by which support was measured for students who had been or who remain in the care of the local authority.
4. The Who Cares? Trust HE handbook compared and contrasted the support available for potential students who had been or who remain in the care of the local authority and was the only complete source of information. Due to funding issues, it is not being updated for the foreseeable future.

NEC Further Believes:

1. In Scotland, the worst outcomes for LAAC&YP (looked after and accommodated children & young people) are for those who are :
 - i) looked after at home (under a supervision order but remain in the family home with support from external agencies such as social work), and:
 - ii) looked after in kinship care (placed with relatives, usually grandparents but can also be Aunts, Uncles, siblings)
2. In England & Wales, these children & young people are not categorised as 'looked after' and therefore are not counted in statistics and are not catered for in policies covering widening access or support for care leavers.
3. In Scotland, historically widening access agreements have been based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. However, research has demonstrated that the majority of children's houses and foster care residencies are outwith SIMD20 areas and therefore are not counted in widening access policies.
4. There are multiple and complex reasons for children & young people being placed in care, the vast majority of which relate to instability at home.
5. Care Leavers across the UK campaigning for better provision have referenced upwards of 50 placements throughout their childhood, this constant flux disrupts attachments and friendships made, feelings of security and interdependency and impacts on the educational attainment of those in care.
6. Across all liberation groups, those with care experience are disproportionately represented.
7. Support varies widely between institutions as there is no nationally standardised guidance for supporting care-experienced students.
8. Most LAAC&YP progressing to tertiary education enter through colleges, however evidence suggests that 40% of these students do not complete their course.

NEC resolves:

1. For NUS UK to build on existing research into the education experience of care-experienced young people.
2. To work with all agencies involved in setting the policies for access to education, retention of students, support of students etc to ensure that the specific needs of care leavers are addressed in policy.
3. To utilise our research to produce a recommendation for national standard guidance and to lobby funding bodies to embed this as statutory support.
4. To consult with students with care experience and to investigate the benefits of appointing a care leavers rep within NUS democratic structures.

Motion 8 | Stand Against National Action

NEC Believes:

1. Campus cohesion is only achievable when groups and individuals are free from discrimination and hate, and remain safe from targeted intolerance and violence.
2. Groups and/or speakers who come on to campus and incite hatred or violence against an individual or group of people threaten the wellbeing and safety of students.
3. Britain First is a Nationalist splinter group of the BNP that spouts fascist and xenophobic ideology, terrorising migrant communities particularly the Muslim community and propagates hatred and violence.
4. National Action (a neo-Nazi group of students) are a hate group who are working for a 'White Britain'. They have a deeply racist, Islamophobic, xenophobic and anti-Semitic agenda.
5. National Action are trying to establish themselves on campuses across the U.K. (including but not limited to: UCL, London Metropolitan, University of Birmingham, University of Cambridge and University of Warwick) and thus NUS has a responsibility to tackle their rise in significance amongst the student population.
6. National Action supports a revisionist history of the Holocaust; previously they have tweeted photographs of the crematorium in Auschwitz and stated that "96 bodies per over a day? Sounds like BS [bulls**t] to me...." and have re-tweeted memes of Hitler with the statement "Gas Yourself" with their response of "Not much else to say....".
7. Groups and/or speakers who incite Holocaust denial are a threat to peaceful campus environments and can work to incite hatred in many forms including but not limited to: anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia and disablism.
8. Holocaust denial may include publicly denying or calling into doubt the use of principal mechanisms of destruction (such as gas chambers, mass shooting, starvation and torture) or the intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people.
9. Holocaust denial is inseparable from Holocaust revisionism which extends itself to the process of Holocaust inversion.

NEC Resolves:

1. To reaffirm NUS' opposition to all forms racism and xenophobia.
2. To raise awareness and educate officers of the hateful messages pedalled by groups like National Action and Britain First.
3. To work to support all students and groups who are threatened from the hateful agenda spouted by Britain First and National Action.
4. To mandate the VP Society and Citizenship to ensure that all students' union officers are educated on the threats that extremist groups pose to our communities.
5. To mandate the VP Welfare to ensure NUS provides support for students' unions to make informed decisions about controversial and contentious external speakers who are invited to campus by societies and officers, using the 2011 NUS guidance on managing the risks associated with external speakers.

Motion 9 | Protecting vital hardship funding in Wales.

NEC Believes:

1. On the 21st August, the Welsh government announced it would be completely scrapping the hardship fund it provides Higher Education institutions in Wales- the Financial Contingency Fund, effective immediately for the academic year 2014/15.

2. The Financial contingency fund (FCF) provides vital financial support to over 6000 students who find themselves struggling financially mid-way through the year, with a current budget allocation of £2.1 million provided to institutions from the Welsh government.
3. Previous NUS Wales research found that 9% of students in Wales rely on contingency funding, and of those who dropped out of University, 55% stated financial hardship as the cause.
4. The Financial Contingency Fund is usually accessed by vulnerable students/ priority groups- such as those who cannot rely on parental support, disabled students, student carers, student parents, students from low income backgrounds and returners to learning.
5. Removal of the FCF will result in many students being unable to afford the basic living costs associated with attending University and an increase in the number of students who have to drop out.
6. Announcing the scrapping of FCF only weeks before the new academic term is deplorable, as it leaves institutions with little time to prepare alternative forms of support, and a deficit in the amount of support available to students in this academic year.
7. The removal of ring-fenced government funding will result in a disparate system where access to hardship funding is dependent on which institution a student attends. This postcode lottery risks exacerbating the inequalities between institutions and the support students are able to access.
8. Removal of ring fenced funding will also result in a deregulation as to how institutions direct funding to those who need it most.
9. The Welsh government has in previous statements made a commitment to widening access to Welsh institutions, and cutting this hardship support is contradictory to that claim.
10. Removal of the Fund risks entrenching the inequalities that already exist in access and participation in higher education in Wales
11. In 2011, NUS Wales led a campaign in the lead up to the assembly elections calling for Assembly members (AM's) to pledge to not cut any more discretionary funding from HE and FE. 166 candidates in the assembly elections pledged not to cut the FCF, including our current first minister and Education minister. Breaking such pledges is breaking a promise to students in Wales.

NEC Resolves:

1. To publicly condemn the Welsh government for their decision to remove this essential funding, and in doing so, breaking their pledge to students.
2. To call for the reintroduction of Government funded hardship funds for Welsh students
3. To support Welsh students' unions in working with institutions to ensure alternative forms of hardship support are provided in absence of centralised funding.

Meeting 3: 3 December 2014

Motion 1 | Anti-Casualisation and Living Wage speaking tour

NEC Believes:

1. Industrial action by trade unions in 2013/14 won the living wage in the UK's universities
2. A movement is building throughout the US and UK for living wages & higher minimum wages, as exemplified by the successful "15 Now" campaign in Seattle, Washington, USA and the Fast Food Rights campaign in the UK.
3. A growing number of trade unions support the demand for £10/hour minimum wage, including GMB, bakers' union BFAWU and Unite.
4. Disparate sections & campaigns within NUS have policy supporting living wages or better minimum wages & against casualisation but no consensus position exists.
5. Disparate sections & campaigns within NUS have varying positions on zero hour contracts.
6. Opposing casualisation is in the interest of all NUS members.
7. That the casualization of academic staff, including many postgraduate research students who teach, is a growing concern across Higher and Further Education
8. That local campaigns by affected students and staff are developing across the sector.
9. That the SOAS Fractionals for Fair Play Campaign (FFFP)¹ has been campaigning for better pay and conditions for casualised academic staff at SOAS, including postgraduate research students who teach.
10. That FFFP organized an open organizing meeting to move towards a national conference on the issue, at SOAS on the 7th February, in an attempt to coordinate local campaigns, share resources and experiences, encourage the development of new campaigns and broaden out the campaign nationally.
11. Casualised academic staff from 14 universities attended the first organizing meeting and voted in favour of organizing a national conference at the beginning of the new year.
12. Since then, two new campaigns of casualised academic staff – at Queen Mary University and Sussex University respectively – have been launched.

NEC Further believes:

1. That the development of local campaigns is an important aspect of fighting the casualization of labour in education.
2. That national coordination between those campaigns is an important development.
3. That it is important to support postgraduate research students both as students and as workers.

NEC Resolves:

1. To authorise NUS Postgraduate Campaign to organise & promote the speaking tour as specified on behalf of NUS as a whole, on the basis of zero cost to NUS and a broad representation of campaigners & campaigning groups.
2. As a minimal position we support an end to age banding of the minimum wage & an increase in the minimum wage to reach the Living Wage Campaign's calculated hourly living wage (£7.68 outside London and £8.80 in London in 2014);
 - a. we prefer a minimum wage level of £10/hour, as determined by the level needed for a single-income family with two children to live above the poverty line while in full-time employment;
 - b. The position outlined in this motion does not override policy set by NUS's sections;
 - c. We remain committed to an overall goal of a society where all people can contribute & make best use of their potential without having to fear deprivation, shortage or oppression.
3. We support flexibility in working conditions as long as the benefit from this flexibility is for the worker, not for the employer.

¹ More info: <http://fractionalsforfairplay.webs.com/>

4. To support the national conference organized by the concerned staff and students and publicise it in the appropriate forums.

Motion 2 | Standing up for sex workers, supporting decriminalisation of sex work

NEC Believes:

1. Sex work refers to escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcams, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex (on and off the street)[1].
2. Selling sex is not illegal in the UK – but it is criminalised[2]. Almost everything that sex workers do to stay safe is illegal[3].
3. Financial reasons, and any criminal record gain due to the criminalisation of sex work, are usually cited as the main reason for staying in sex work[4].
4. There are a disproportionate number of disabled people, migrants, especially undocumented or semi-documented migrants, LGBT people and single parents (the vast majority of whom are women) involved in sex work[5].
5. The financial cost of being disabled, the cost of childcare, the cost of medical transition and hormones, racism in the workplace, the vulnerability of undocumented migrants to exploitation in other forms of work and the prejudice faced by LGBT and disabled people undoubtedly contribute to this overrepresentation.
6. The criminalisation of sex workers' clients, known as the Swedish Model, was recently passed in the Northern Irish Assembly, despite government-commissioned research showing that 98% of sex workers working in Northern Ireland did not want this introduced[6].
7. Organisations that support the decriminalisation of sex work include the World Health Organisation[7], UN Women[8], the Global Commission on HIV and the Law[9], Human Rights Watch, the NUS Disabled Students' Campaign[10] and the Royal College of Nurses[11].
8. The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women opposes introducing criminal penalties against the clients of sex workers. Their research found that criminalising clients does not reduce sex work or trafficking, but infringes on sex workers' rights & obstructs anti-trafficking efforts[12].
9. The decriminalisation of prostitution was introduced in New Zealand in 2003[13] by Labour MP Tim Barnett, who called the debate on decriminalisation the most significant debate on a moral issue since the decriminalisation of homosexuality[14].
10. The criminalisation of sex workers' clients has been proven to lead to further distrust of the police amongst sex workers, a willingness of sex workers to engage in more risky behaviour/safety procedures out of desperation, and does not reduce overall levels of prostitution [15].

NEC Further Believes:

1. Sex work is work. Sex work is the exchange of money for labour, like any other job. It is different because it is currently criminalised and stigmatised.
2. People should be free to choose what they do with their time, their labour and their bodies. If they have fewer choices, our solution should be to expand their choices, not take options away through further criminalisation.
3. The right of consenting adults to engage in sexual relations is of no business to anyone but the people involved.
4. The moral panic around sex work and prostitution echoes the moral panic that was present when homosexuality was in the process of being decriminalised. It is no coincidence that many who argue for harsh anti-prostitution laws under the guise of feminism also voted against equal marriage and similar civil rights measures.
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 students do sex work alongside their studies.
6. The lack of funding for postgraduate education makes it likely that some students use sex work as a means to fund their postgraduate degrees.

7. Stigma against sex work means that sex workers are less likely to seek out help and support if and when they need it.
8. Regardless of their reasons for entering into sex work, all sex workers deserve to have their rights protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. This includes sex workers who do not find their job 'empowering'. Whether or not you enjoy a job should have no bearing on the rights you deserve while you do it.
9. NUS have 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.
10. The Stonewall Riots, which kick started the LGBT Pride movement NUS proudly champions today were started by Martha P. Johnson and other trans sex workers of colour.
11. Tim Barnett was correct in asserting that "prostitution is inevitable, and no country has succeeded in legislating it out of existence"[16]. Sweden cannot show a reduction in the number of sex workers.
12. Legislation targeted at combatting poverty, austerity, universalising childcare and a living wage, sufficient social housing, and accessible education funding and living grants, is more likely to ensure those who do not wish to work in the sex industry do not feel forced to by economic circumstances.
13. Decriminalisation would ensure that sex workers feel able to report unsafe clients or violence at work without the worry of criminal repercussions, that several sex workers can work together for safety, and that those who wish to leave the sex industry are not left with criminal records as a result of their job.
14. The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex are often spearheaded by anti-choice, anti-LGBT right-wing fundamentalists, working with radical feminists[17].
15. Legislation of this kind is often brought forward in the name of anti-trafficking programmes – in reality it is primarily being used to target immigrant sex workers for raids and deportations.
16. The ILO estimates that over 75% of trafficking globally is into industries such as fisheries, agriculture and domestic work - not into sex work[18]. An effective anti-trafficking strategy would strengthen the rights of all migrant workers in order to crack down on exploitation by managers. Treating the sex industry as exceptional leaves the majority of exploited migrant workers out in the cold - and the police aren't the allies of migrant workers, whether they're sex workers or agricultural workers.
17. A recent example of how simplistic 'anti-trafficking' policies harm migrant sex workers was the Soho raids – 250 police broke down doors of brothels operating in Soho, dragging handcuffed immigrant sex workers in their underwear out on the street. No evidence of trafficking was found and the flats have now been reopened, but women were deported against their will as 'trafficking victims'.
18. The Joint Committee on Human Rights report on Human Trafficking confirmed that "victims often find themselves treated as immigration offenders" and face detention and removals[19].
19. 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[20].

NEC Resolves:

1. To support and campaign for the full decriminalisation of sex work.
2. To campaign against any attempt to introduce the Nordic Model into the UK.
3. To support and be led by sex worker led organisations, such as the English Collective of Prostitutes, Sex Worker Open University and SCOT-PEP, who work to improve the lives of sex workers across the UK.

[1] From here on, references are made to 'sex work' in this motion refer to full service sex work – escorting, prostitution, etc. Other strands of sex work are stigmatised, but not criminalised in the way that full service sex work is criminalised.

[2] Similar laws operate in Scotland, Wales & England. Prostitution (the exchange of sexual services for money) is not illegal, but associated activities (soliciting in a public place, kerb crawling, operating

a brothel) are. The main laws around sex work in the UK are: the Vagrancy Act of 1824; the Sexual Offences Act of 1956 and the Street Offences Act of 1959 (England and Wales); the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892 and the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act of 1976, Sexual Offences Act 2003, Policing and Crime Act 2009, Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2002, Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

[3] See <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jan/06/prostitutes-criminalised> & <http://sabotagetimes.com/people/sheila-farmer-and-the-brothel-that-never-was/>. Sheila Farmer is a disabled sex worker who entered the industry after her disability left her unable to work – working with friends for safety after being raped, she was charged with brothel keeping but the charges were eventually dropped after she began to campaign publicly about what she had been put through by attackers, the police and the authorities. Her experiences are not uncommon.

[4] <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/prostitution-report-nov-update.pdf>, p.8; <http://www.justice.govt.nz/policy/commercial-property-and-regulatory/prostitution/prostitution-law-review-committee/publications/plrc-report/documents/report.pdf>, p.15

[5] Safety First Coalition

[6] <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/prostitution-report-nov-update.pdf>, p.11

[7] http://www.who.int/hiv/mediacentre/feature_story/sti_guidelines/en/

[8] <http://sexualrightsinitiative.com/2013/sri-partners/sri-welcomes-un-womens-strong-position-on-sex-work-sexual-exploitation-and-trafficking-in-persons/>

[9] <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2012/july/20120711lawcommission>

[10] Policy passed 11/11/14

[11] <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2005/apr/27/health.crime>

[12] http://www.gaatw.org/publications/MovingBeyond_SupplyandDemand_GAATW2011.pdf

[13] Prostitution Reform Act 2003

[14] http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/debates/debates/47HansD_20030625_00001319/prostitution-reform-bill-%E2%80%94-procedure-third-reading

[15] <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/prostitution-report-nov-update.pdf>; http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/debates/debates/47HansD_20030625_00001319/prostitution-reform-bill-%E2%80%94-procedure-third-reading; <http://prostitutescollective.net/2014/11/05/victory-amendment-criminalise-sex-workers-clients-defeated/>; <http://prostitutescollective.net/2009/02/04/letter-from-tim-barnett-former-new-zealand-mp-on-the-policing-and-crime-bill-2/>; <http://prostitutescollective.net/2014/10/30/urgent-mps-trying-criminalise-clients/>; The National Board of Health & Welfare, 2008

[16] <http://prostitutescollective.net/2009/02/04/letter-from-tim-barnett-former-new-zealand-mp-on-the-policing-and-crime-bill-2/>

[17] E.g. the Democratic Unionist Party, CARE, Ruhama, End Demand.

[18] http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_214472.pdf

[19] <http://prostitutescollective.net/2014/10/30/urgent-mps-trying-criminalise-clients/>; Twenty-Sixth report of session, 2005-6, Vol. 1

[20] Safety First Coalition

Motion 3 | International students and the NHS

NEC Believes:

1. According to the 2014 Immigration Act, from May 2015, students and workers from outside the EU will have to pay a 'NHS surcharge' of up to £200 per year before they are given a visa. The charges apply to primary care (GPs) and A&E departments, as well as secondary care.
2. To enforce these surcharges, NHS staff will have to check the immigration status of everyone who uses the NHS, whenever they register for a GP practice or go into A&E for emergency treatment.
3. The Department of Health is currently writing the secondary legislation which will lay out how the law is implemented. It will soon begin piloting the new registration database and will start implementing the visa surcharge and other charges within the next six months.

NEC Further Believes:

1. As immigration checks are forced upon overburdened A&E, GP and hospital staff, mistakes are inevitable and patients will suffer. The Act states that Trusts will receive "financial incentives" to recoup costs. This means pressuring staff to racially profile patients into those deemed eligible for free care, and those not. This discriminates patients, and goes against every NHS Trust policy on Equality and Diversity towards patients and staff.
2. The NHS surcharge forces international students and migrants to contribute more than the rest of society in order to access NHS services. Migrants who come to the UK to work or study already pay into the system in many ways – through taxes, National Insurance, VAT and tuition fees. The Immigration Act fails to recognise migrants' work within NHS itself. While international students contribute £14 billion to the UK economy every year, they are made the scapegoat of austerity.
3. The NHS has never been a contribution or insurance-based system, and this surcharge is a move away from the universal principles on which it was founded. Although these changes seem small, it brings us closer to the American model where people are denied care because of their inability to pay.
4. When immigration enforcement enters the NHS many people will become scared and deterred from seeking care because their movements will be reported to the Home Office. Health workers shouldn't be responsible for policing patients' immigration status.
5. The patients' health conditions will worsen and conditions that could have been more simply treated at an early stage will bring them to A&E at a much greater cost to the entire system.
6. All people resident in the UK should be treated as humans, not wrongly categorized as vectors of infection for British citizens. All chronic conditions should be treated equally, regardless of a patient's national origin.

NEC Resolves:

1. To work with International Students' Campaign to campaign against the systemic change in NHS and fight the anti-immigrant rhetoric in every front.
2. To send a press release in supporting the rights of international students and migrants to access health care service.
3. To include the provision for international students' health care in NUS' general campaigns and briefings around NHS.

Motion 5 | Kurdish Solidarity

NEC Believes:

1. The Kurdish people have been fighting for freedom and democracy throughout the course of history and are amongst the largest stateless groups in the world.
2. They have experienced mass genocides committed by surrounding states, followed by mass displacement and millions of refugees.
3. There is a new democratic structure in the 3 cantons of Rojava which has been set up by the people of the region and enacts women's rights as well as other forms of social justice for all those oppressed.
4. Kurdish women have played a key role by co-leading the resistance in the region, with non patriarchal and anti-sexist methods which has also been the case throughout history.
5. The Kurdish people in Kobane are restricted in healthcare, food and clothing.
6. The Kurdish struggle aims to protect co-existence between the different ethnic and religious groups.
7. That our opposition to ISIS should not make us forget the crimes of some fighting it – eg the Syrian regime which, backed by Russia and Iran, has murdered tens of thousands of civilians and is using the current crisis to step up its violence and repression.
8. That we should not trust or support the role of the US and UK governments and their allies, who helped created the conditions for the rise of IS; continue to back all kinds of reactionary regimes and forces in the region; and by their very nature act for reasons that have little to do with democracy or liberation.
9. The humanitarian crisis and massacre of Kurds that has been taking place in both the north of Syria and north of Iraq.
10. ISIS is a reactionary terrorist organisation that carries out atrocities against Kurds, Iraqis, Syrians, Assyrians, Turkmen, Alawite, Ismaili, Christian, Druze and others across the region.
11. ISIS is currently maintaining a siege on the Kurds of Kobane in northern Syria.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That all peoples have the right to self-determination.
2. Rojava is entitled to its independent political establishment which is inclusive of all the communities within the region.
3. That the Kurdish struggle should be recognised and supported by the international community.
4. That the Kurdish people should lead in defining their freedom and making demands of solidarity.
5. That kidnapping sexual abuse and trafficking of Kurdish women and children are crimes against humanity.
6. That ISIS should be condemned for its atrocities, against the Kurdish people and all others who have been affected.
7. That aid should not be prevented from reaching the Kurdish people.
8. Provisions should be put in place to cater for the people in the Kurdish region, namely Rojava, Shingal, Mosul and Sinjar.
9. That following the US/UK invasion of Iraq a decade ago, chaos, sectarianism, civil war and terrorism have been unleashed across the region.
10. That Turkey has been preventing the Kurds fighting ISIS in Kobani from receiving humanitarian aid and assistance
11. Western military involvement in the region has already created the current chaos and further intervention will only exacerbate the situation.
12. Within Britain the government is fanning a reactionary Islamophobic agenda which falsely equates Muslim communities with support for terrorism, and that this is latched onto by the far right and encourages attacks on Muslims.

NEC Resolves:

1. That Kurdish emancipation will neither be obtained through groups like ISIS nor imperialist endeavours.
2. To meet with and support the UK Kurdish groups and community's solidarity efforts and the international Kurdish diaspora's.
3. To call on the international community to recognise the Kurdish resistance.
4. To call for the UK government to formally recognise the three cantons of Rojava.
5. To call for the lifting of the ban on the PKK, which aids repression of the Kurdish nationalist movement.
6. To support the international movement to find and bring back all the Kurdish people who have been captured by ISIS.

7. To raise awareness about the situation and support Kurdish societies within Students' Unions to show solidarity.
8. To pressure the UK government to meet the needs of the Kurdish community in the UK and within the region.
9. For relevant officers to campaign to support the Kurdish struggle.
10. To condemn the atrocities committed by ISIS and any other complicit forces.
11. To call on the UK government to meet the needs of refugees from the region.
12. To support women's organizations which help young girls and women who have been abducted and trafficked.
13. To call for refugees to be allowed freely into the UK, and given equal access to education and services.
14. To build solidarity with the Middle East's hard-pressed student, workers' and women's liberation movements.
15. To condemn and fight attempts to use the situation in Iraq and Syria to stir up anti-Muslim racism / Islamophobia. To oppose the anti-civil liberties and anti-Muslim measures the government is promoting (eg the right to confiscate passports/abrogate rights of citizenship).
16. To express our solidarity with the Kurdish people and their struggle in the region.
17. To condemn ISIS, and the atrocities it commits.
18. To oppose US and UK military intervention in Iraq and Syria.
19. To support the demands of the Kurds in Kobane for a humanitarian corridor through Turkey to enable provisions to reach the civilians there.
20. To challenge Islamophobia and all forms of racism being whipped up.

Meeting 4: 4 March 2015

Motion 1 | Student support for healthcare and social work students

NEC believes:

1. Healthcare students, such as those on nursing or midwifery courses, are funded differently to other HE students. Different bursaries are also made available to social work students.
2. In England and Wales, NHS funding for healthcare students has failed to keep pace with inflation, and indeed has been frozen in some instances for five years.
3. Social work bursaries in England have been cut by the Department of Health, such that neither undergraduate nor postgraduate students are guaranteed bursaries and far fewer overall will receive this support.
4. The Access to Learning Fund in England has been abolished, and the Financial Contingency Funds in Wales are also under threat. NHS students are disproportionately likely to apply to such hardship funds.
5. The Pound in Your Pocket England report (2012) found that NHS-funded students had some of the lowest wellbeing scores, in part because so many are older students with responsibility for children or caring for other adults.
6. There are a number of trade unions and professional bodies who represent healthcare workers and by extension healthcare students. In the past, NUS has had a formal partnership with them.
7. Many of these organisations have been campaigning for better pay for NHS workers.

NEC further believes:

1. NHS bursaries and social work bursaries were inadequate before and it is a scandal that so many students will be struggling under these cuts.
2. That the government would cut hardship funding at the same time as squeezing the support for such students is deplorable.
3. There is now a significant disparity in funding between NHS-funded students and other undergraduates.
4. NUS has in the past been guilty of not doing enough work specifically on this key demographic of its membership and it is important to address specific issues affecting them.
5. Healthcare and social work are essential professions in society and should be supported properly, especially if the NHS and local authorities wish to deliver high-quality services.
6. If healthcare or social work students cannot concentrate on their courses because of money worries, or because they are working long hours to support themselves, this can only impact on their ability to develop these essential skills.
7. Funding needs to be restored, increased and enhanced: healthcare and social work students need adequate support.
8. By working closely with the key unions and professional bodies our chances of success will be much higher.

NEC resolves:

1. To call for adequate support provision for healthcare students, with NHS bursaries increased to levels which enable healthcare students to pay their essential living costs.
2. To call for social work bursaries to be restored to all social work students.
3. To include these calls in our wider General Election work as appropriate.
4. To enter into discussions with the Royal College of Nursing, Royal College of Midwives, Unison and the British Medical Association in regards to potential partnerships and to agree common objectives, extending to other bodies where relevant.

Motion 2 | Wales needs a postgraduate loan system

NEC believes:

1. The recent announcement in the Autumn statement by the UK Government proposed the introduction of loans of up to £10'000 for students domiciled in England studying postgraduate courses anywhere in the UK.
2. Postgraduate education is expensive and inaccessible with, historically, poorer students less likely to study at postgraduate level.
3. This announcement was welcomed as a move towards making postgraduate study more accessible, however it is limited to only English-domiciled students.
4. Through consequentials from the Barnett funding formula, any increase in spending in education should result in the Welsh Government being offered a match level (equivalent) funding to be spent in the same area.
5. This funding is likely to come with a strict set of conditions as to how it should be spent, which would limit the Welsh Government's ability to offer loans to all students.
6. The current independent review into education funding and student support (also known as the Diamond Review) is currently examining postgraduate education funding as part of its terms of reference.

NEC further believes:

1. NUS Wales believes the Welsh Government could delay a decision on Welsh postgraduate loans until after the conclusion of the 'Diamond' review in 2016; and therefore any system proposed would not be enacted until 2018/19.
2. Through the introduction of postgraduate loans in England only, there is a danger that a pseudo-market may appear, whereby universities across the UK will raise the cost of all postgraduate courses to at least £10'000, in order to benefit from the full loan from the students studying that course.
3. If Welsh students are not offered comparable financial support to study postgraduate courses, they could be priced out of the system, and unable to afford the increased cost of postgraduate study.
4. Any delay in formulating a Welsh PG loan system will result in a generation of Welsh students unable to afford postgraduate study and being disadvantaged compared to their English counterparts.
5. The English PG loan system recommends limiting the accessibility of loans to those under 30, discriminating against those returning to education later in life.
6. Any proposal to limit loans to particular subject areas would result in certain groups of students being disadvantaged in accessing postgraduate study.

NEC resolves:

1. For NUS UK to work with devolved nations NUS elected officers to ensure any unintended consequences of any English loan system for students from the devolved nations don't arise.
2. For NUS UK, in all future conversations with the UK Government about postgraduate loans, to lobby for a flexible financial arrangement for devolved nations to allow the respective government to introduce a complementary postgraduate loan system.

Motion 3 | Forget me not – the 'Other 50%'

NEC Believes:

1. Apprenticeships are currently dominating the dialogue around vocational study and training.
2. The political sphere is obsessed with 'the other 50 per cent' and how we can get more young people trained and ready for the workplace.
3. As we near the General Election in May there is consensus across the main parties that apprenticeships should be supported politically and backed financially.

4. The Conservative party recently pledged to use cuts to the welfare budget to fund three million new apprenticeships. At the same time the Labour party has announced its intentions to match the number of apprentices to those going to University by 2025, making apprenticeships one of its 'national goals'.
5. Since the last election the apprenticeship budget has risen from £1 072 million in 2009/10 to £1 487 million in 2013/14.
6. Employers are also being incentivised to take on apprentices. In last year's Autumn Statement the chancellor George Osborne announced that the Government would abolish National Insurance contributions for apprentices aged under 25. This means from April 2016 almost half a million employers will be exempt from making the contributions.
7. Apprenticeships are often framed as a chance to 'earn whilst you learn'. They supposedly offer a chance to gain a skill and a qualification whilst working in a 'real' job with a wage. Yet for many apprentices their low wages quickly disappear on travel, rent and food.
8. That apprentices need a better system of support in place in order for them to properly afford to complete their course. Without this apprentices are being forced to take on extra work, borrow money or drop out altogether.
9. The expansion of apprenticeships in this country is meaningless if the experience of those learners is poor.

NEC Further Believes:

1. The Government should scrap the apprentice minimum wage, and apprentices should be entitled to at least the national minimum wage (NMW) for their age.
2. Employers should ensure that information on the national minimum wage enforcement hotline is made available to apprentices.
3. In the short term the Local Government Association should issue national guidance for local transport services to extend discount fares to apprentices.
4. In the long term we would like to see free bus travel extended to all 16-19 year olds, enabling young people to access further study, training or work without a financial barrier.
5. Statutory Sick Pay should reflect hours worked, rather than the amount earned and should therefore be available to everyone who works for 30 hours or more a week. This would prevent apprentices from being absent from work without pay.
6. The loss of child benefit for parents who have a child completing an apprenticeship is unacceptable and inconsistent with other areas of Government policy. The Government to include apprenticeships in their 'approved' education or training category.
7. The Government should extend Care to Learn to apprentices. Access to this fund would make a huge difference for young adults on apprenticeships, helping them to afford their childcare costs.
8. The Government should extend access to the bursaries available for FE students to apprentices. This would ease the financial pressure on apprentices, helping with living and travel costs.
9. Banks should be encouraged to provide products, similar to those made available to undergraduates and college students, for those on apprenticeships.

NEC Resolves:

1. To launch a campaign, working with the National Society of Apprentices, calling for the end of the financial support divide between academic and vocational courses

Motion 4 | Free Raif Badawi

NEC believes:

1. Saudi blogger Raif Badawi has been sentenced to ten years in prison and a thousand lashes for criticising the Saudi government.

2. Saudi Arabia is one of the most tyrannical regimes in the world, banning trade unions, political parties, independent media, protests, demonstrations and homosexuality; criminalising atheism and other dissent from its brand of Islamism; persecuting minorities; denying women the most basic rights; and routinely engaging in executions (including public executions) and torture.
3. The British government is very friendly with the Saudi regime because of “business interests”, particularly oil.

NEC resolves:

1. Condemn the imprisonment and flogging of Raif Badawi and demand his immediate release and the dropping of all charges.
2. Write to the Saudi government expressing our solidarity with Raif and all those fighting for democratic rights in Saudi Arabia.
3. Write to the British government demanding it calls for Raif’s release.
Promote demonstrations about this issue to our members.

Motion 5 | Continuing the fight for free education

NEC believes:

1. That university education in the UK is the most expensive in Europe.
2. The huge success of the National Demo for Free Education on November 19 2014 that had a turnout of over 10,000.
3. That in Germany, tuition fees were abolished in this academic year showing that it is possible to have free university education, including for international students.

NEC further believes:

1. That education is a social good and should be provided free of charge and paid for by progressive taxation on the wealthiest in society.
2. That the government should give full living grants for students in order to allow them to live and study.
3. That the Labour Party’s proposal of a graduate tax would be inadequate in solving the problems of education funding and would lead to students continuing with a life of debt.
4. That in Germany it took many years for tuition fees to be abolished following sustained pressure and action from the student movement.

NEC resolves:

1. To support the National Demo in March taking place in Birmingham, being held to protest the inadequacies offered by the Labour Party and to put pressure on them to have a free education position that includes living grants for all students
2. To circulate information about the demonstration among its members, encouraging them to go along

Motion 6 | Learn Greek!

NEC Believes:

1. That since 2010 the people of Greece have been subjected to the kind of “austerity” – vicious attacks on their rights and standard of living – usually reserved for countries outside Europe.

2. That in response, workers, students and others organised a huge wave of struggles between 2010 and 2013, including numerous general strikes, militant direct action and mass occupations of city squares.
3. That this period also saw a dramatic realignment and polarisation of Greek politics, with the virtual collapse of the Labour-type party Pasok and the rise of the left-wing party Syriza, pledged to reverse austerity.
4. That in January Syriza won the general election (with an even stronger vote among young people) and it is now the government.
5. That although the basic trend in Greece has been to the left, the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn has also burgeoned since 2010, has carried out repeated violent attacks on migrants and its opponents on the left, and came third in the last election.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That a clash is coming between the Greek government and the leaders of the European Union over Syriza's demand renegotiation of Greece's debts.
2. That we should make solidarity with the student and workers' movements in Greece, including by demanding that Greece's (and other poor countries') debt is cancelled so the Greek government can carry out the will of those who elected it by ending austerity. We must oppose attempts to expel Greece from the Euro or EU if it refuses to back down.
3. That a victory for the Greek workers and left will have important positive consequences for other countries in Europe and beyond, including Britain.
4. That the lesson is that we do not have to accept austerity, cuts and attacks on our rights. We can organise to stop and reverse cuts and win better. And we can best help Greece by spreading struggle across Europe.
5. That mainstream politicians, particularly in the Labour Party, should take note!

NEC resolves

1. To publish a statement of solidarity with Greek students and workers on the basis set out above.
2. To circulate information on this to CMs.
3. To organise protests if threats are made against Greece by the EU, and sponsor and promote the Greek solidarity demonstration called by NCAFC for May Day.
4. To step up our fight to stop and reverse cuts, for free education, for a well-funded public education system, for migrants' rights, etc, in the run up to the general election.

Motion 7 | Ayotzinapa

NEC Believes:

1. Mexico is in the middle of a humanitarian crisis; since 2006, at least 22,000 people have disappeared and in roughly 40% of these cases there was no criminal investigation.
2. One recent disappearance was of 43 students from the Ayotzinapa Teaching School on the 26th of September 2014. It is clear that the students were abducted by the police and handed to criminal cartel organisations.
3. The Cartels have confessed that the 43 students are dead. They were taken to a dump, interrogated about their politics, tortured, shot and burned.
4. HSBC were fined \$1.9 Billion for laundering money for cartels and are therefore complicit in the crisis in Mexico. (<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2012/jul/17/hsbc-executive-resigns-senate>)
5. It is clear that there is no distinction between big business, the state and cartel organisations in the aid and abetting of disappearances.
6. The attack on these student teachers were politically motivated and will not go unnoticed.
7. That this incident has acted as the catalyst to nationwide protests against the corruption of the Mexican government, privatisation and lack of funding in education.
8. That the Argentine forensic team has discarded that the remains found burned in a landfill corresponded to the 43 disappeared students

9. That just the 15 of November, 2 students were shot by the police in UNAM university at Mexico City after invading the campus, breaking the law of university autonomy.
10. That the University of Manchester students' union, Kings College London students' union and Oxford students' union passed motions of solidarity with the Mexican students in the past month.

NEC Further Believes:

1. The struggle of the IPN students and work of the Rural Teachers are inspirations for the labour and student movement worldwide.
2. The Mexican state is responsible for this crime.

NEC Resolves:

1. To condemn the Mexican state for the criminalisation and repression of students, and impunity and negligence before, during and after the investigations.
2. To demand independent, international observed searches for these students whose situation is not yet known.
3. To urge the NUS, NEC and local trade union branches (UCU, Unite and Unison) operating in universities to seek out the practicalities of affiliation and forging links with the IPN (Instituto Politecnico Nacional), UNAM, and Democratic Teachers Union in Mexico.
4. To urge the British government to condemn the events and pressure the Mexican government to conduct a real investigation of the matter and stop the repression of students
5. To release a statement of solidarity with the ongoing protests and students opposing the Mexican state on the slogan and hashtag "#Fue el estado." (It was the state).

Motion 8 | Responsible Students' Unions

NEC believes:

1. There is a growing and concerning narrative about the place of freedom of speech on campuses
2. The debate around activity of students and freedom of speech completely lacks the dynamic of responsibility of freedom from harm
3. There have been efforts made to shame students' unions for having proactive and robust policies that mitigate risk and protect students from experiencing prejudice and discrimination of their campuses
4. Institutions have a responsibility over which speakers and groups gain a platform on their campuses to ensure that all students are able to exist freely and safely.

NEC further believes:

1. That the student movement will not be ashamed of its proud history of creating and defending campuses as safe places for all students
2. That racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia and transphobia or any other form of prejudice have no place in any part of society and the student movement will respond to that as required to make campuses safe places to live and study
3. Doing the above does not threaten the existence of freedom of speech
4. That the student movement will not be intimidated by attempted media spin, flawed research and untruthful critique by organisations seeking to undermine our work
5. That students' unions have a right to operate, organise and act as an autonomous collective independent from their institutions and other external organisations

NEC resolves:

1. To reaffirm our commitment to NUS' No Platform policy and continue to support students' unions to implement such policies on their campuses where they desire
2. For NUS to respond as needed to those seeking to threaten safe spaces under the false guise of 'censorship'
3. To publicise and support students' union to publicise our pride in the work that we do

4. To provide training workshops for student officers on the importance of structures such as External Speaker Guidelines and/or Hate Speech Guidelines which have proven successful on a host of campuses.

Motion 9 | Tackling Hate Crime on Campus

NEC believes:

1. There have been several instances of hate actions occurring on campuses this year, with a notable rise in number during January 2015 .
2. Campuses have been targeted as means to spread messages of antisemitism and Islamophobia through a range of deplorable tactics including offensive graffiti such as Swastikas and Islamophobic targeting.
3. There has been a rise in self-proclaimed hate groups attempting to infiltrate campuses and target Muslim and Jewish student communities.
4. These groups aim to target specific campuses and build a hateful movement to spread further across campuses all over the

NEC further believes:

1. All students, regardless of faith race or ethnicity, should be able to live safely without fear of attack on their campuses
2. All forms of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia must be addressed and fought against
3. That institutions have a responsibility to respond to hateful groups and work with their students' union to keep students safe
4. That personal safety of students, officers and staff must remain a paramount priority for all institution members.

NEC resolves:

1. To contact students' unions highlighting the growing trend of such groups on campuses
2. To proactively offer support to students' unions who find their campuses being targeted and support them in working with different protection services
3. To proactively support students' unions in demanding their institutions take these threats seriously and work with students to respond accordingly. Whilst acknowledging and condemning these actions through statements is important we must also encourage institutions to proactively find those responsible and take appropriate action.
4. To ensure Anti-Racism Anti-Fascism work is central to NUS' activity and invite all students' unions to take part in it

Motion 10 | Post-Study Work Visas

NEC Believes:

1. There are about 350,000 non-UK international students in the UK who require a visa to work under the current immigration system.
2. NUS is campaigning to reinstate the Post-Study Work visa for all international students.
3. Employers require a Tier 2 licence to hire skilled workers from outside the EU which is restricted in both the types of job which can be filled and the salary amount which must be paid; there is currently no visa for unskilled workers and very limited opportunities for work in the Arts, Sports, or Entertainment industries.
4. NUS does not currently hold a Tier 2 licence to recruit skilled workers.
5. Coventry Students' Union, UEL Students' Union, University of Westminster Students' Union and the Students' Union of the University of the Arts London have already achieved a Tier 2 licence.
6. As graduates of UK educational institutions, international students who studied in the UK are exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test (RLMT) for a job which qualifies for a Tier 2 visa.

(<http://www.ukcisa.org/International-Students/The-next-stage/Working-after-your-studies/Employment-Tier-2/Resident-Labour-Market-Test-and-exemptions/>)

International Students can also work in the UK with a Tier 5 visa for short-term or temporary jobs with less restrictions than jobs which qualify for Tier 2 visas.

NEC further believes:

1. International students are used as political scapegoats by the government to feed the myth that immigrants are taking jobs while the fact is that there is a net economic benefit from immigration is being hidden from the public.
2. Like home students, international students have expectations and hopes of working in the UK after their studies.
3. The removal of the Post-Study Work visa in 2012, has severely restricted graduate job opportunities for international students.
4. All students should have the right to pursue their chosen careers post-study regardless nationality or borders.
5. People should have the right to move, and the right not to move; we are all worth of opportunity and the chance to progress.
6. While the only way to ensure equality of opportunity to international students in the job market is to reinstate the Post-Study work visa, there are actions organisations in the UK can take to improve equality of opportunity now.
7. NUS' current inability to recruit international students post study and lack of data means it is more likely that the staff profile of NUS is not representative of the international student body
8. As a national body, representing 7 million students in the UK which includes international students, we have a responsibility to ensure an equality of opportunity for international students within our organisation.
9. As a membership body of students' unions, actions from NUS to promote equality of opportunity to jobs for international students can lead more equality of opportunity within our members.

NEC resolves:

1. To ask HR Sub Committee to undertake the following changes to its human resources policies and practices, reporting the outcome to the next Trustee Board meeting:
 - a. To include nationality in NUS' equality monitoring systems to allow for more evidence-based policies promoting equality of opportunity to NUS jobs.
 - b. To remove the visa requirement section of NUS job applications from the view for those shortlisting candidates to protect nationality as a protected characteristic under equality law.
 - c. To undertake a review of NUS jobs to identify which are eligible for Tier 5 or Tier 2 visas and to state on job postings if the job advert qualifies for a Tier 2 or Tier 5 visa.
 - d. To obtain a Tier 2 visa for successful job applicants
 - e. Ensure positions that become available at NUS are advertised to the international student body.
2. Work to develop a better understanding of the visa system in member unions and support member unions in obtaining a Tier 2 license if they request it.
3. Work with national student-led organisation AIESC to promote global job opportunities for Home and International students to ensure everyone has the opportunity to work where they feel is best for them.

Meeting 5: 2 June 2015

Policy remitted from National Conference 2015 and passed at NEC

200 Education Zone

Motion 213 | Support our staff and defend education

Conference believes:

1. Workers' pay in FE and HE has suffered huge real-terms cuts – 15% in 5 years in HE.
2. Pension schemes are under attack.
3. Funding cuts and marketisation are wrecking FE, and colleges are launching local attacks on jobs and workers' conditions and cutting courses like ESOL.
4. Institutions are shifting toward casualised, precarious conditions for academic workers (e.g. postgraduates), disproportionately affecting women and Black workers.

Conference further believes:

1. The same forces are attacking our staff, and raising fees and cutting student provision. Industrial action may affect students in the short-term, but workers' campaigns are defending education and protecting students' interests long-term.

Conference resolves:

1. Condemn all cuts to pay and pensions, and courses and student services, and demand their reversal.
2. Fight inequality by demanding closure of gender and racial pay gaps and a maximum 5:1 pay ratio across the education sector.
3. Oppose marketisation by opposing the break-up of national pay and pension agreements in HE and FE, and by campaigning for a national FE system, integrated with the rest of the education system, publicly funded and accountable, with staff, students, and local communities controlling the curriculum.
4. Reaffirm NUS support for education workers in future industrial disputes, barring a vote to the contrary at NEC which must be ratified at the following conference.
5. Urge SUs to support workers' local campaigns improving pay and conditions and defending jobs, and to produce material to help them.

Motion 214 | Unlock knowledge to free our education

Conference Believes:

1. Education is a right, not a privilege.
2. Knowledge transfer is a key element of education.
3. Academic journals are key to knowledge transfer.

Conference further believes:

1. The subscription cost of academic journals is too high for many HE and FE colleges to get extensive coverage, limiting some areas of knowledge transfer.
2. Those without access to institutional provision for academic journals should still be able to access them as education is a public good.
3. Free Education includes open access to knowledge and online academic journals.

Conference resolves:

1. To mandate the VP HE and VP FE to lead lobbying efforts to make online access to academic journals free for everyone and report back on the progress of this lobbying by NUS conference 2016.

Motion 215 | Access

Conference believes:

1. Over the past five years, NUS and students' unions, working together, have raised the bar on widening participation and access. We have moved away from seeing access as getting students through the doors of our higher education institutions to embracing a lifecycle model that looks at induction, retention, student success whilst studying and student pathways following undergraduate education.
2. Students' Unions have a powerful role to play in widening participation, a crucial part of which is engaging as a union in the institutional Access Agreement.
3. Students should be consulted and engaged at every stage in the production of their access agreements, and institutions must work in partnership with their students' union on the content of their access agreements.
4. Unions that deliver College HE often have little to no relationship with the Access Agreement process, due to complicated arrangements between who accredits degrees and where the access agreement sits.

Conference further believes:

1. Each institution has a diverse range of students with a different set of circumstances and needs. Access is not about a one size fits all approach.
2. We must approach access and widening participation with the values we share in common as a student movement; challenging privilege and elitism, championing equality of access throughout the entire student lifecycle, and recognising that higher education must be made suitable for a diverse range of learners, instead of the current system that seeks to shape students to fit its narrow moulds.
3. It is possible to take both a principled approach and deliver measures that make financial sense for students, as evidenced by work on the National Scholarship Programme, where Students' Unions saved £60m and put £29m extra into students' pocket in 2013/14 by winning the arguments on unhelpful fee waivers.
4. It is essential we prioritise the involvement of FE Unions in the access agreement process.
5. Liberation is central to access and widening participation. We must ensure that we're placing it at the centre of our access initiatives too. As a movement, we must empower liberation groups on campus and nationally to lead on issues of widening participation and access.
6. Examples such as Manchester SU's We Get It Campaign and UCL's BME Students' Network's Why Is My Curriculum White? Project show that students' unions are leading the way on integrating liberation with access work. NUS should also lead the way on ensuring this is embedded at an institutional level, and institutions are adequately funding unions as well as taking the opportunity to learn from us.

Conference resolves:

1. To recognise that access arrangements cannot be a one size fits all approach.
2. To provide support to FE Unions to be part of the access agreement process.
3. To support Unions in articulating their access activities and develop the asks for their institutions.

Motion 216 | End Degree Certificate Discrimination!

Conference believes:

1. Currently most Universities/ colleges do not allow alumni who have transitioned after completing their studies to obtain degree certificates matching their new name and title.
2. Furthermore some universities and colleges do not allow their students to register with titles that are widely used among non-binary students, such as Mx, Misc, and Pr.

3. As a consequence of this it is impossible for these non-binary students to graduate with a degree certificate that accurately reflects their identity.
4. These restrictions are frequently justified as being necessary to prevent fraud.

Conference further believes:

1. That alumni that have transitioned should not be forced to risk outing themselves to future employers.
2. Further, that the justification based on preventing fraud is disingenuous, as many other documents can be obtained with changed names and titles merely with a deed poll or statutory declaration.
3. That policies of not reissuing degree certificates and not permitting non-binary titles creates systematic discrimination against trans* students and alumni.

Conference resolves:

1. To lobby universities and colleges to provide a service whereby alumni can have degree certificates reissued in the event of a change of name or title.
2. To ensure that these services do not present unnecessary obstacles to alumni who wish to have certificates reissued.
3. To ensure that these services are free of charge.
4. To lobby universities and colleges to offer the option of non-gender-binary titles to their students.
5. For the VP HE and VP FE to work with the NUS LGBT campaign to ensure we are working towards ending degree discrimination

Motion 217 | Don't you forget about me – placement students

Conference believes:

1. The term placement relates to (but not limited to) the following; Year Abroad, Professional Placement, Industrial Placement, Specialised Placement during your time as a student at University/College.
2. Every year, tens of thousands of students from a variety of universities and colleges go out on placement as part of their course, either embedded or choosing to.
3. Institutions are looking to grow their provision of placements that their students can undertake, to enhance their employability for post-graduation recruitment.

Conference further believes:

1. That the current fragmented level of support provided to those out on placement by their institution is inadequate for their needs, and ultimately making the student on placement feel as though they are not a part of their Institution.
2. These were themes picked up in research conducted by Hull University Union in the 2014/15 academic year, and further highlighted by The Guardian article "Year-abroad students say universities don't offer enough support" (December 2014).
3. That all students should feel as though they are a part of both their Institution and their Students Union, and the support provided by both of these should be of a high standard.

Conference believes:

1. For the NUS to conduct national research into the support levels provided to placement students, by both Universities and Students Unions.
2. For the NUS to work with a variety of stakeholders, such as Trade Unions, Professional Bodies, Universities/Colleges and Students Unions, to create a national set of standards regarding support for placement students that Institutions and Students Unions should abide by.

Motion 218 | Drop the Learning Tax: Save sixth form colleges from paying VAT

Conference believes:

1. Since 2010, funding cuts and funding remodelling have massively affected sixth form college budgets across the Country. The sixth form colleges' association stated that they had found in their 2014 funding impact survey that 68% of sixth forms have dropped courses as a result of cuts, 71% have had to remove or reduce enrichment activities and a colossal 95% have had to reduce staffing.
2. On average, a sixth form college pays £334,944 per year in VAT leaving them less to spend on the education of students each year.
3. The government refunds the VAT costs to schools and academies but not sixth form colleges, taking away funding from front line education of young people.
4. Sixth forms also have to pay 20% VAT on capital expenditure.

Conference further believes:

1. By asking the government to drop the learning tax, we could enable sixth forms to repair some of the damage done as a result of the three funding cuts imposed since 2010.
2. This could ensure that all subjects, even those with less demand are secure. It could ensure that enrichment activities are maintained. It could help to keep class sizes manageable and also sustain staff training to support teaching and learning.
3. Sixth forms receive less funding than schools or academy sixth forms and have experienced greater cuts to their budgets since 2010. Dropping the learning tax would address the clear inequality in the funding system, and more importantly ensure sixth form colleges have the funding to provide the high quality education the students deserve.

Conference resolves:

1. NUS to campaign for the Government to drop the learning tax and refund the VAT costs of Sixth Form Colleges.
2. To work with the Sixth Form Colleges' Association on their Drop the Learning Tax campaign.

Motion 219 | Once, twice, three times, Further Education

Conference believes:

1. Over the last parliament, we have seen move after move from the coalition government to reform FE examinations in a bid to "raise standards"
2. Within A levels, this has seen the scrapping of AS levels and modular exams, as well as the ability to resit examinations
3. In vocational education we have seen many qualifications and subjects disappear from college provision, even though there is demand from students to study them
4. Following the Wolf Review, several qualifications deemed not to be of a high enough standard have been removed, taking away opportunities from those who want or need to study at Level 2
5. The introduction of £4,000 loans for adults studying in Further Education has taken away opportunities for mature students to return to study, to retrain or reskill – and government plans to extend these loans to 19-23 year olds
6. The Further Education system in the UK should be there to support students to reskill and retrain, to give first and second opportunities to everyone who needs them
7. This government is intent on turning FE into a "one strike and you're out" system
8. This approach not only stops people being able to get the qualifications they need and deserve, but places even more pressure on those studying in colleges to succeed first time around – having a negative impact on physical and mental health

Conference resolves:

1. To carry out research amongst FE students about the impact of Further Education reforms – and about what an ideal system would look like

2. To develop a model system for qualifications and examinations in the further education sector
3. To campaign for the reintroduction of AS levels and modular exams, as well as resits, and for more integrated vocational and academic routes
4. To continue to campaign against fees and loans in Further Education, and against their proposed extension

Motion 220 | The raising for the cap

Conference Believes:

1. The raising of the cap on Student Number Controls has led to an increase in the total number of undergraduate students in England.
2. That this coming admission cycle will see the cap removed entirely.. That some higher education institutions have undertaken aggressive expansion in their student numbers, while others have seen a drop
3. Since the introduction of £9,000 fees there has been a 40% decrease in mature students and a 14% drop in part time students
4. Universities that have dramatically increased their numbers have, by and large, been underprepared and this has resulted in inadequate provision for students in housing and academic spaces among other areas.
5. Some of the institutions expanding as a result of the lifting of the Student Number Controls are for profit institutions and are doing so with public money.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The principle of opening up access to higher education to those who are able is core to the values of NUS.
2. Opening up higher education to a greater number of students should not be seen as an opportunity to further create a market in higher education.
3. The increase in total undergraduate students is often used by those defending recent HE reforms to mask the fall in mature and part time students and the clear failing of the reforms to open access to HE from non-traditional backgrounds.
4. That institutions should not be seeking to grow their numbers at the expense of the quality of education and experience of their students.
5. That no profit making institution should have access to public funds.

Conference Resolves:

1. To continue to push for high quality higher education for those who wish to access it.
2. To highlight the failings of the current system in regards to mature and part- time students.
3. Work to ensure better planning processes for institutions in advance of any expansion.
4. Ensure robust points of intervention that enable early action if quality of provision is impacted as a result of either expansion or contraction.
5. For NUS to lobby the government to remove the age cap prescribed on the proposed postgraduate loan system

Motion 221 | UK Visas and Immigration

Conference Believes:

1. On 24 June 2014, the Immigration Minister James Brokenshire announced in Parliament, action against the Tier 4 licences of 3 Universities and 57 Private Colleges.
2. Following this announcement over 80 universities and colleges have been impacted by action from the Home Office on their Tier 4 licence.
3. Removal of a Tier 4 licence from a college or university in the UK means that the teaching of any international students must immediately stop and students are given 60 days to find a new place to study or leave the UK.
4. No university or college is currently required by the UK government to provide international students with a refund for the qualification they will be unable to get from that institution.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Since 24 June 2014 over 12,000 international students have been unable to complete their qualifications due to action by the Home Office on their Institution.
2. NUS' survey of affected international students shows no student has been granted a refund, and many have been unable to find a new place to study simply because they studied at an institution which had its Tier 4 licence removed.
3. International students face the most risk when a Tier 4 licence is removed, despite having not caused the decision, no power to change that decision, no recourse to challenge that decision and no refund guarantee for the fees they paid.
4. The 2012 High Court Agreement between London Metropolitan University and UKBA (now UKV&I) recognised the risk students faced and set out protections which allowed many students to complete their studies.
5. The High Court Agreement also set out a number of immigration concessions which ensured students would not be disadvantaged by the decision to revoke LMU's Tier 4 licence.
6. It was the responsibility of Ministers, as delegated by the LMU Task Force, to take action to support future students faced with the loss of their institutions Tier 4 licence and they have failed in that task with no changes made to the immigration rules or guidance put in place to protect or support students.
7. Despite requests from NUS and the Sponsorship Working Group (SWG) set up to support students in the current crisis, no student since LMU has received financial support or any immigration concessions.
8. The limited actions of the SWG to support students, came too little and too late to help the students impacted by the current wave of Tier 4 licence removals.
9. The failure of the UK government and education sector to protect and support international students in the immigration system is fundamentally undermining the internationalised education of every student in UK further and higher education.

Conference Resolves:

1. To publicly condemn the Home Office for their failure to protect students in the Tier 4 sponsorship system, and in doing so, placing thousands of students at risk.
2. To call on ministers at the Home Office and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to commit to learn from these failures and to ensuring that this does not happen again.
3. To call for a fundamental change to the Tier 4 sponsorship system which will protect the education of all students when a Tier 4 licence is revoked.
4. To call for a new system of financial regulation will which ensure that when a Tier 4 licence is removed it does not place at risk the financial stability of the entire university or college.
5. To support all international students facing deportation and financial loss when their institution loses its Tier 4 licence.
6. To continue to campaign for a mandatory student financial protection scheme for all international students, regardless of the type of institution they study at.

Motion 222 | The Attacks on Disabled Students have only just begun!

Conference Believes:

1. The Written Ministerial Statement on 12 September rolled out the amended changes to the Disabled Students Allowance and these were put into law in the The Education (Student Support)(Amendment) Regulations 2014
2. Despite a strong lobby and campaign from NUS and local SUs, the changes to DSA will detrimentally effect disabled students inequally across the country – the richer the student, the richer the university, the "more white" and the "more male" the student, the less the effect will be.
3. There is a huge amount of male privilege and white privilege in society and in higher education.
4. Rich universities will simply pay the £200 or the cost of the support allowance.
5. Students from wealthy backgrounds or with a history of full time professional work, will simply pay without impacting their quality of life or taking on even more debt

6. Black students, a group already discriminated against by rampant white privilege in universities and the delivery of student services, will be trebly impacted – by racism, by economics and by disability
7. Complex cases of students with interlocking support needs or multiple ‘conflicting’ disabilities have entirely been axed from the reforms to the DSA
8. None in government seems to get that more disabled students proportionately study or restudy later in life, may take longer to complete, or study part-time and this is usually only possible at universities that are not swollen with the proceeds of the market – how can poorer universities, with larger disabled populations afford to cover the costs and ‘compete’ with richer, less disability diverse institutions?
9. Simply, the door will be slammed shut to disabled students and no university will be there for us.

Conference resolves:

1. Call for a repeal of the 2014 Regulation
2. Challenge the racism and ageism in the government policy

Motion 223 | Stop the assault on arts education

Conference Believes:

1. Between 2003 and 2013 there was a 50% drop in the GCSE numbers for design and technology while the number of arts teachers in schools has fallen by 11%
2. While Michael Gove paved the way for the eradication of arts in schools, his successor Nicky Morgan has claimed choosing these subjects could “hold children back for the rest of their lives”.
3. The arts sector more broadly has seen huge cuts, with Arts Council England taking a 32% hit.
4. FE and HE institutions regard Foundation as ‘loss-making’ due to a lack of government funding and a fees gap for under-19 home students.
5. Applications for Foundation have dropped by up to 30% since EMA was cut.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That limiting choice is not just an assault on education as a public good, but an assault on working class people who are already held back from elitist art institutions.
2. Nicky Morgan is despicable and we have no confidence in her as Education Secretary.
3. Foundation courses should be free of fees for all students, regardless of age or nationality, with full access to a grant.

Conference Resolves

1. To send a representative to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Art, Craft and Design Education and to lobby the government on the need to preserve and fund Foundation courses without fees.
2. To assist arts specialist Students’ Unions to organise and campaign collaboratively, lending resources and advice where necessary; and support campaigns by students’ and trade unions against any closure and cuts to Foundation courses.

Motion 224 | Protecting College

Conference believes:

1. During this government, college budgets in England have been cut by billions of pounds
2. The adult FE budget next year in England has been told to plan for a 24% funding cut
3. Even though the higher education system has seen the tripling of tuition fees in England, this has meant that the sector has been protected from some of the effects of austerity that further education has seen
4. Further Education funding is the only part of the Department of Business Innovation and Skills budget which isn’t ringfenced, and this budget is due to be cut by a further £Xm over the course of the next parliament
5. As politicians continue to focus on schools, higher education and apprenticeships, further education colleges are even more squeezed out, and find themselves having to cut courses or even close campuses

Conference resolves:

1. To run a national campaign about the importance of further education and the impact of cuts to colleges throughout the UK
2. To campaign against further cuts to colleges, and work alongside the further education sector and trades unions to make the case for protecting colleges within government budgets
3. To continue to campaign against 24+ advanced learner loans which force adults to take out huge amounts of debt to pay for levels of education which most people would take for granted
4. Not to campaign for an increase in university funding which would take even more money away from colleges and further education.

Motion 225 | Protection against course closures

Conference believes:

1. That students should be entitled to protection against course closures
2. That safeguards should be in place to protect an individual's experience whilst studying
3. That the increasing reliance on tuition fees to fund higher education means that less-popular courses will become more susceptible to course closures
4. That it is unacceptable that ad hoc and inconsistent arrangements can be made for students

Conference resolves:

1. To lobby universities to introduce a formal document outlining what students are entitled to (i.e. money back, course or institution transfers) if their course has to be closed

Motion 226 | Quality FE

Conference believes:

1. NUS has spent years securing funding to talk about the quality of teaching and learning in Higher Education and running projects about quality of provision in universities
2. The quality of provision in Further Education is only regulated by Ofsted and the Skills Funding Agency, who monitor quality rather than engage students in talking about quality education
3. The removal of the requirement for college lecturers to have teaching qualifications poses a threat to the future quality of Further Education
4. Students Unions in colleges aren't being given the skills and advice to run campaigns on quality, or to speak to their students about what quality FE looks like
5. There have been huge scandals with poor quality provision for apprentices over the last few years, with short apprenticeship programmes being banned
6. Often in Further Education, NUS' campaigns are about protecting colleges from cuts, and this is right, but we also need to campaign for FE to be as high quality as possible
7. Class reps and course reps are a really important part of making sure students' unions are talking about the quality of the curriculum and teaching but lots of students' unions don't get enough support to make these work

Conference resolves:

1. Develop resources and support for FE colleges to work in partnership with their institutions to make Further Education as high quality as possible
2. Work with FE students and apprentices to develop partnership agreements with their institutions on student voice and quality
3. Develop class rep training toolkits and support for FE students' unions
4. Work with the Further Education sector to create more opportunities to talk about what quality education looks like
5. Campaign to end poor quality, short term apprenticeships
6. Campaign to bring back the requirement for all FE lecturers to have teaching qualifications.

Motion 227 | Principles of Quality Assurance

Conference believes:

1. Quality assurance and enhancement across the UK, is currently carried out by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and the Quality Assurance Agency Scotland (QAA Scotland).
2. The responsibility for assessing the quality of higher education lies with the relevant funding bodies across the nations.
3. Until 2014 the funding bodies discharged this responsibility to the QAA without a public tender process.
4. In 2014 the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) announced that they would be putting out a public tender for the quality assessment contract.
5. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has announced that it will not be putting their quality assessment process out to tender, while the Higher Education Funding Council Wales (HEFCW) and the Department for Education and Learning (DEL) in Northern Ireland have stated that they are also seeking views on the future of quality assessment.
6. That quality assessment has been based on a system of co-regulation between the sector and institutions.

Conference further believes:

1. Quality assessment should never be undertaken for profit.
2. Students should be an equal partner with institutions and the sector in quality assessment.
3. The entry bar to become a higher education provider should be high to ensure that students can be assured that their course is high quality and secure.
4. The current quality system is currently focussed on testing the quality assurance processes locally and not the quality of the education itself.
5. There are universal outcomes that higher education should deliver.
6. Each institution should understand and articulate their own individual outcomes, in partnership with their students' union.
7. Quality assessment should not just be about examining the past actions of an institutions but also the future plans
8. Quality assessment standards should not reflect the minimum amount required, but should push the HE sector to constantly improve and develop

Conference resolves:

1. To publically oppose any move that allows any organisation to make profit from the quality assessment of UK Higher Education
2. To work to ensure students are equal partners with the sector and institutions in quality assessment.
3. To lobby the relevant parties to raise the bar for entry to HE to ensure a high quality of education provision across the UK

Motion 228 | Increased educational funding and/or loan opportunities for medical and dental students in their 5th or 6th year of study

Conference believes:

1. There should be increased educational funding and/or loan opportunities for medical and dental students in their 5th or 6th year of study, as they are not covered by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills for the full duration of their course.
2. The issue of funding for 5th and 6th years of a medical degree are serious, and NUS needs to discuss these issues further. In order to ensure medical students issues are treat seriously, NUS needs to lead the way in campaigning for additional funding.
3. Medical and dental students should not be disadvantaged due to the length of their course.
4. Students from low income families could be disproportionately disadvantaged due to the need to attain extra funding in the final years of their degree.

5. Medical students and dental students on placement are put under increased financial stress, during their finals which can result in poor exam results
6. Medical students are often unable to fund 'intercalated degrees' which decrease their chances of getting good jobs
7. Students are often forced to apply for expensive 'professional development loans', rather than usual government funding.

Conference resolves:

1. NUS should request the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills to increase funding for these students
2. This should come alongside making further funding available for masters, and other post undergraduate qualifications.
3. To lobby government to make loans accessible to students entering their 5th year of study onwards, until the end of their course

400 Union Development Zone

Motion 404 | Representation in Sport

Conference believes:

1. University sport represents a strong part of the student experience at many institutions.
2. Universities increasingly control student sport, with the Students' Union providing representation of the students.
3. With Universities continuing to focus on enhancing 'the student experience' and many expanding staff capacity in this area, there is a risk that the representational role of the SU is under threat.
4. An independent and autonomous body should represent students. The University cannot provide this.
5. NUS should provide support where the autonomy of Students' Unions representative function is being challenged.
6. British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) currently doesn't create an effective platform for student feedback as well as democracy.
7. BUCS engagement with sabbatical officers on a democratic & representational level is not sufficient despite having a high level of engagement with Sport senior managers.

Conference resolves:

1. NUS to survey the relationship between Institutions, Students' Unions, and Sports Department to establish what is current best practice and detail various working models.
2. NUS to provide support to Students Unions in ensuring that their representational role is not threatened over student sport.
3. NUS to lobby and work with BUCS to ensure that there are appropriate platforms for student representation and democracy.

Motion 405 | Student representation in private colleges

Conference believes:

1. In the current sponsorship revocation crisis for international students, most students did not have a local voice as they did not have a students' union or where they did, it's autonomy and independence was not supported or protected.
2. There majority of students at private colleges, where students representation is not developed, supported or protected, are international students from either within or outside the EU.

3. Many international students impacted by Tier 4 licence revocation or in private colleges can never be NUS members as they don't have a students' union, or the protection or support to create one capable of being accepted as members.
4. Despite the requirements for every Tier 4 sponsor to have a successful QAA Review, and for every QAA Review to have submission from a Lead Student Representative capable of independently consulting with their student body, the NUS International Students' Officer found little to no evidence of student representation in any of the 53 colleges who had their licences revoked during the sponsorship crisis.
5. NUS extra cards were being sold in 15 of the revoked colleges, and only one of these colleges listed a student representative as the main contact with NUS.
6. NUS has developed strong student representation and engagement support for some types of institutions to ensure students are represented but they do not fit the private college model, nor does NUS actively work with these institutions or students in these institutions to ensure student representation is strong and students are protected as representatives.
7. International students have issues such as immigration compliance, fees and funding, access to support, advice and guidance, and a connection to international affairs, which are best supported by a strong students' union.
8. Students at private colleges have faced significant hardship and often receive a poorer quality of education as the government consistently fails to better regulate this sector; which is why they need a stronger voice.
9. There is clear evidence that we need independent, supported and effective student representation within private education for both home students and international students.

Conference resolves:

1. For the NUS Vice President Union Development ensure that students who are in private colleges without a students' union have clear and specific support to develop student representation.
2. To work with QAA, OIA and other regulatory bodies to protect the right to continuous student representation and the rights of students as representatives in private colleges every year, not just a review year.
3. To ensure the voices of students studying at private colleges are included in and reflected in activities from NUS's Big Conversation and other consultations on union development.
4. To undertake a mapping exercise to better understand how students are represented in private colleges and how student representation is or could be supported, meaningful and effective.
5. Work to ensure that all students feel they have a voice in their education, locally, nationally and internationally.

Motion 406 | Fair payment for International Students

Conference believes:

1. International and EU students make up large proportion of students in the United Kingdom. The Students' Union is the place where they (as all other students) receive support and engage in sports and activities that allow them to make the most of their student journey.
2. The majority of the international student body experience issues during the welcome/induction period as it is not possible for them to attend events due to their inability to pay in advance because they do not have access to a UK bank account.
3. International students are not given the opportunity to engage with as many events, activities, as possible.

Conference resolves:

1. To allow Students' Unions to use alternative methods of payment to accept payments for events from International and EU students

Motion 407 | Charity Commission

Conference Believes:

1. The Education Act 1994 restricted the activity of Unions to that which benefitted 'members as students'
2. Since the Charity Act 2006 the Charity Commission has scrutinised and investigated Unions for their political activity, attempting to further restrict Unions.
3. This all serves to depoliticise Unions and conflicts with their fundamental roles as active campaigning bodies.
4. Concurrently, through its collusion with the government's PREVENT initiative, the Charity Commission operates guidelines for charity trustees for avoiding charities being used for 'purposes of extremism'
5. In recent years, the Charity Commission has investigated more and more charities on the suspicion on use for 'extremism'.
6. According to a Claystone report in 2014, over a quarter of charities investigated for this were Muslim charities, and the Commission has been accused of targeting Muslim charities.
7. This has many implications for those charities beyond reputational damage, including the freezing of bank accounts without any conviction or proof of wrongdoing.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The Charity Commission has moved to taking on a more investigation-based nature from its intended regulatory function.
2. The Charity Commission is not a neutral body
3. Restricting charities and student unions in their activity is weakening the role of civil society to effect positive, active change in the UK

Conference Resolves:

1. To condemn the Charity Commission for its activity with regards to the excessive and disproportionate investigation of SUs and Muslim charities in their activities.
2. For NUS to negotiate special charity status for Student Unions that allows more flexibility with regards to their political activity and campaigning
3. Provide guidance to Union officers and trustees for how to navigate charity law and remain political and campaigns-led institutions

Motion 408 | From service to action: student opportunities and volunteering

Conference believes:

1. Student opportunities – clubs, societies, media and volunteering – is a complex landscape, full of overlapping activities and artificial boundaries to make administration easier.
2. Over the last 20 years the education sector has been increasingly shaped into a market. Beyond HE tuition fees in England and Wales, this is driven by the rise of private providers, a dominance of league tables and shifting attitudes towards education – as solely an individual investment towards higher future earnings.
3. Student opportunities are increasingly understood solely in a language of adding value to your qualification and CV-boosting, rather than also being socially-valuable and educational.
4. This is particularly acute in the area of student volunteering, where language and practice have trended towards a service-provision model – volunteering on pre-determined projects to lessen existing social problems, using 'hours served' to quantify how much value the activity has added to the experience of being at university.
5. Where volunteering is fragmented and understood as community service, and market forces have focused other student opportunities on individual, personal development, the historically-important role of student opportunities in catalysing social action and providing a platform for campaigning has declined.
6. Student activities, including clubs, societies, volunteering and RAG are important parts of any student's experience.
7. Research from external organisations like HECSU's 'Futuretrack' longitudinal study has shown that involvement in student activities has significant positive outcomes for students who can take advantage of them.

8. Research within students' unions, such as the work over 5 years at Teesside SU, shows that involvement in student activities has a huge positive impact on students' retention and success.
9. But in a time when the expanding student numbers means pressure on institution resources, Wednesday afternoon free for activities is no longer protected in many FEIs and HEIs.
10. The costs of being involved in many societies, clubs and other activities can be some of the largest 'hidden student costs' of the student experience.
11. The cost of living of being a student, and the lack of access to enough funds, either loan or grant, means that many students have to use free time to work significant hours for additional money, and less time to be involved in student activities.
12. This means that it is the least advantaged students who miss out on student activities, therefore compounding the difference in advantage rather than reducing it by the end of their course.
13. Some FE Students' unions offer many opportunities in work experience and volunteering.
14. Student volunteers and work placements gain valuable employability and social skills participation in the SU is an important educational opportunity & can increase capacity to services that unions deliver.
15. SUs run important social, cultural and educational activities organised and run by SU volunteers and work placements
16. Some SUs also utilise curriculum projects to develop and build their SU
17. Students expand their work experience portfolios by taking part in the real life projects of SUs.

Conference further believes:

1. There is no single set of motivations by which students take up opportunities at university. Likewise, there is no single way of understanding the value of student opportunities.
2. Impact created by student opportunities needs to primarily understood by social impact generated, not just impact on the individual students involved.
3. While it's clearly nonsense for every sports club or society to be centred on political change, student opportunities must be valued in society as platforms for collective social action and empowered to take up this civic role by their students' union.
4. Student volunteering and interaction with the community needs to take centre-stage within students' unions, as a core part of all student opportunities, not a side-stream of activity.
5. That recognising these facts means that funding and resourcing student activities should be a priority in both FE and HE.
6. That creating a national focus on this element of the student experience could have a huge positive outcome for WP students.
7. That putting pressure on universities and colleges to increase funding and support for student activities should be a higher priority for NUS as it has a significant positive impact on retention and success for WP students.
8. That OFFA has the potential also put pressure on institutions to create greater funding from access funds for student activities.
9. Sometimes students' volunteering in SUs goes unrecognised there's some concern that the government will not recognise volunteering in the SU in curriculum programs
10. SU volunteers including groups reps, add significant capacity to the learner voice system
11. The damage of cuts can be reduced in some areas by the work of SU volunteers and work placements.
12. Some students' who get experience in SUs much earlier are less likely to need to undertake an unpaid internship having already developed work experience skills

Conference Resolves:

1. To set up a national campaign to put student activities at the heart of NUS work on student retention and success.
2. To lobby OFFA to set greater expectations on institutions within their access agreement to specifically push funds towards initiatives which support growth in free or heavily subsidised access for students to student activities.

3. To lobby UUK and AoC to put greater resources into students activities in their institutions.
4. To re-establish a national campaign to keep Wednesday's free for activities.
5. To lobby government to increase access to funds for students at a rate capable of supporting a day to day without having to take on additional hours work, such that students would have the option to sue their spare time to take advantage of activities at university.
6. To build on the work of Teesside and others and create a bigger national resource demonstrating the value of student activities to success and retention for students.
7. NUS to adopt the definition of student opportunities as outlined above – recognising and communicating their socially-valuable, educational nature as well as the already-familiar benefits to employability – and encourage member students' unions to do the same.
8. NUS to review how existing student volunteering provision can be embedded and coherent throughout the student movement.
9. NUS to research into the social impact of student opportunities and set up a commission to identify its educational benefit on retention and communities.
10. NUS to carry out research to gather case studies demonstrating the value of work experience and volunteering in FE SUs evaluate skills developed by students volunteering in FE SUs.
11. Identify activities which add capacity to Student Unions through work placement and volunteering and to make recommendations as to best practice.
12. Seek endorsement of work experience/volunteering in SUs from volunteering organisations such as the princes' trust and government departments lobby UCAS to award UCAS points for volunteering in FE SUs
13. Add volunteering and work placement development and management to officer development programs and other training programs.
14. Attempt to map the value of volunteering and work placements in SUs across the FE sector after 2 years, as evidence for future use lobby government and colleges to ensure that curriculum references to work placements and volunteering explain Sus are viable opportunities
15. NUS and Sus to identify volunteer, curriculum and work experience projects which are aimed at improving the learner voice and recommend these projects as best practice

Motion 409 | Attendance at SU Activity and authorised absence

Conference believes:

1. Some student officers in FE are not given recognised authorised absence for attending union activities.
2. Workers unions and some colleges recognise and give Authorised Absences to voluntary union officials to carry out union business
3. The government and employers recognize and promote the value of volunteering for employability skills

Conference further believes:

1. Student officers recognised authorised absence will empower voluntary officers to run their unions better.
2. Student officers should be given support to participate in union matters and should be offered additional help when needed
3. In the absence of sabbaticals Officers in FE unions, authorised absence for union activity is essential

Conference Resolves:

1. Lobby colleges and college groups to explicitly reference SU activity in the attendance policy as authorised absence for student officers on union business Including NUS work.
2. NUS to provide model wording to colleges for the authorised absence section of their attendance policies.
3. authorised absence wording to cover the work of student council

500 Society and Citizenship Zone

Motion 507 | Welfare 'Reform' Affects Students Too

Conference believes:

1. That the guise of 'welfare reform' has been used to dramatically cut state benefits and services
2. Welfare 'reform' has abolished or imposed cuts on the following benefits:
 - Carer's Allowance
 - Child Maintenance
 - Cold Weather Payment
 - Community Care Grant
 - Compensation for victims of crime
 - Crisis Loans
 - Education Maintenance Allowance
 - Working Tax Credits
 - Child Tax Credits
 - Sure Start Maternity Pay Grant
 - Health in Pregnancy Grant
 - Lone parents income support
 - Housing Benefit
 - Council Tax Benefit
 - Employment and Support Allowance
 - Child Benefit
 - Disability Living Allowance / Personal Independence Payment
 - Income Support
 - Independent Living Fund
 - And many more.
3. Changes have also taken place to the way in which such benefits are calculated and paid, including Work Capability Assessments for disabled people, the introduction of a Universal Credit, and the idea of benefit caps
4. That students don't only access student finance, but a wide range of services and benefits provided by the state.
5. This government has persecuted people on benefits, making life poorer, harder and more brutal for some of most disadvantaged people in society, and hounding disabled people to their deaths.
6. It has been aided by the right-wing press and, shamefully, by Labour leaders.
7. There is a lack of millions of jobs, especially for young people – sanctioning regimes cut costs by pretending that unemployment is a question of personal motivation.
8. Stories about people "cheating" the system are usually inventions or distortions, and are irrelevant fringe cases anyway. The real story is how badly claimants are treated, and the fact that many do not get what they are legally entitled to.
9. The government should go after rich people and corporations dodging tax, not so-called benefit cheats.

Conference further believes:

1. That the government justifies these 'reforms' through an economically illiterate austerity agenda and sells this agenda to the public with rhetoric of hate, discrimination, and degradation of oppressed groups
2. That these 'reforms' are having a disproportionately negative effect on the lives and achievements of students and families in oppressed groups
3. That some NUS work recognises the importance of state support and benefits to students, but a concerted effort in tackling welfare 'reform' has not been made.

Conference resolves:

1. NUS should publicly condemn the austerity agenda and welfare 'reform', making the argument that people are more important than profit, liberation more important than growth, and societal progress can only be achieved through public investment.
2. NUS should carry out and publish research into the services and benefits most commonly under threat of cuts and closure and measure the impact this has on the lives and achievements of students, particularly those in oppressed groups.
3. To better promote the Guide to Benefits and Finance booklet NUS produces each year so that students might navigate the changing landscape better
4. To collaborate with useful allied organisations in wider society, particularly those expert in issues relating to oppression groups
5. To support and encourage student organised actions against any government department or contractor responsible for cutting benefits or services or implementing welfare 'reform'.
6. For this work to be coordinated by the Vice President for Welfare, supported by all other Officers, in direct consultation with the Liberation Campaigns, and for a full report on this work to be submitted to the NEC ahead of the 2016 National Conference for approval.
7. To condemn the war against benefit claimants and campaign to end it with groups like Boycott Workfare, Disabled People Against the Cuts and PCS trade union.
8. To demand decent, liveable benefits for all who need them, alongside decent, secure jobs with a living wage for all those who want them

Motion 508: Human Rights

Conference believes:

1. The recent Atlantic tendency towards block bits of legislation drafted with a questionable lack of transparency, which curb:
 - a. human rights
 - b. progressive environmentalism
 - c. a free internet
 - d. safe public sphere;

Conference Resolves:

1. Oppose secret tribunals, and rendition in the name of security and Theresa May.
2. Human rights of British citizens must be maintained, and all must have the right to fair legal judgement in their own nation, in a trial open to the public and press.
3. Fracking poses a risk to geology, peoples' homes, and is not worth the expensive shale oil:
4. Take a stance against Fracking – NEC to discuss this policy implementation
5. CISPA and the like have normalised top-down censorship and surveillance of the internet. In the light of the Charlie Hebdo massacre and rampant Anti-Semitism; Cameron called for further powers to be granted to the security services, against encryption by web services.
6. The public sector, the welfare state is under attack through many means:
 - a. Austerity is supported by all major parties despite an absence of success in deficit reduction.
 - b. TTIP US-EU free trade deal would allow International Settlement Dispute Arbitration to bankrupt governments behind closed doors as corporations sue them.
 - c. An unregulated housing market causes the suffering of the many to the benefit of the few.
7. Cuts to DSA and new practices to delay and deter students in claiming it should be recognised and opposed.
8. Take a stance against a 3rd party contractors overcharging for it. Instead, the hours should go to the students rather than Randstad, allowing a broader provision for peer-support.
9. NEC to discuss support of the nuclear energy industry, especially rolling out cold fusion is the best way to challenge human impact on climate change

Motion 509 | No to Political Policing: Solidarity with the Irish Anti-Water Charges Movement

Conference Believes:

1. The Fine Gael/Labour government in Ireland is introducing charges for domestic water use, which has previously been a public commodity in Ireland, paid for through taxation and free at the point of access, as part of its vicious austerity program.
2. This has provoked a huge wave of protest across Ireland, directly involving hundreds of thousands of people, and nearly 50% of households have refused to register for the charges. An Ipsos MRBI poll last December showed only 48% of people intend to pay the charges.
3. In response to the growing movement around non-payment, the Irish government has set the Gardai on protestors in a disgraceful display of political policing. At least 21 anti-water charge campaigners have been arrested so far, often in dawn raids. Those arrested include Anti-Austerity Alliance (AAA) TD Paul Murphy and two AAA councillors, as well as children as young as 14.
4. While most were released without charge, five campaigners have been jailed for defying court orders not to protest at water meter installation points. Two of these, Derek Byrne and Pauly Moore, have now been reported as having begun a hunger strike in protest.

Conference Resolves:

1. To condemn political policing, to defend the right to protest, and to stand in solidarity with the anti-water charges movement.
2. To demand the immediate release of the 5 jailed campaigners.
3. To mandate NUS to make a public statement outlining our position and show solidarity with the movement against water charges.

Motion 510 | Stop Climate Change: Yes to Renewables – keep Fossil Fuels in the ground!

Conference believes:

1. Climate change is the greatest threat facing humanity.
2. The worst effects of climate change can be avoided – but only with much greater political will and urgent action to cut carbon emissions.
3. The International Energy Agency report that increased 'fracking' would lead to a 3.5 degree centigrade temperature rise, well above the 1.5 degree acknowledged as the tipping point for runaway climate change.
4. To stop disastrous climate change, four fifths of all existing fossil fuels must be left in the ground.
5. As well as reducing the impact of climate change, increased investment in renewable energy will also contribute to the stabilisation and long-term reduction in energy prices. More jobs are also created for each unit of electricity generated from renewable sources than from fossil fuels.
6. Following the lack of progress in the 2014 Lima talks we need maximum action around the December UN climate summit in Paris to secure a fair and effective agreement to tackle climate change.

Conference further believes:

1. That the government has failed to take action to reduce climate-changing carbon emissions.
2. Instead of taking urgent action on decarbonisation of our energy supply, the government have instead chosen to focus on lining the pockets of their friends in the fossil fuel industry, with a new dash for gas through fracking.
3. People and Planet's 'Fossil Free' campaign has had major successes in pressuring universities and colleges to divest from fossil fuels. SOAS has agreed to freeze its investments in fossil fuels and the University of Glasgow has announced that it will divest its £129 million endowment from fossil fuels.

Conference resolves:

1. To mobilise students to the protests against climate change around the Paris talks – we need serious commitment to slash carbon emissions.
2. To mobilise students to press the Government to take tougher action on climate change.
3. To continue working with SUs to support People and Planet's 'Fossil Free' campaign, stepping up efforts to force universities and colleges to divest from the fossil fuel industry.
4. To launch a major campaign for our universities and colleges to invest in renewables.

Motion 511 | Education for Sustainable Development

Conference Believes:

1. In November 2014 UNESCO held a World Summit on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Nagoya to celebrate the UNESCO Decade on ESD and launch a new Global Action Programme.
2. Students were represented through 50 youth leaders, who developed a vision for a sustainable future, at a preceding youth stakeholder meeting held in Okayama. This vision comprises strategic commitments and recommendations for advancing ESD alongside the Global Action Programme.
3. Done well, ESD embraces critical thinking, interdisciplinary learning and global citizenship and, all of which are attributes that society needs from learners and graduates to help deliver the vision of a sustainable future.
4. ESD is not just about knowledge, skills and understanding, it covers all strands of education developing pro-environmental attitudes and values while also promoting social and economic education. There remains a strong role for the informal curriculum in ESD.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The NUS and HEA survey has consistently shown that 60% of students want to learn about sustainability.
2. Many institutions are still focusing their sustainability efforts on doing less bad through estates, rather than more good through embedding sustainability in teaching and learning.
3. The Government of Japan has an impressive national ESD policy and programme across all forms of education, and other Governments, such as the Netherlands and Germany, are developing such plans post-Nagoya.
4. There is a lack of political leadership on ESD in the UK, symbolised by the non-attendance of a UK delegation at Nagoya.

Conference Resolves:

1. To endorse the UNESCO youth statement vision, commitments and recommendations.
2. To develop a programme of activity that supports students, students' unions and their institutions to embed sustainability into the formal and informal curriculum.
3. To campaign for a UK-wide Governmental strategy and initiative on ESD.

Motion 512 | Solidarity with Greece

Conference believes:

1. Since 2010 the people of Greece have been subjected to the kind of "austerity" – vicious attacks on their rights and living standards – that international financial institutions have long imposed in the Global South.
2. Greek workers, students and leftists have resisted with general strikes, direct action.

Conference resolves:

1. Make solidarity with the student and workers' movements in Greece, including by demanding Greece's debt is cancelled.
2. Oppose expelling Greece from the Euro or EU for its non-compliance.

Motion 513 | Raise the minimum wage - £10 now

Conference believes:

1. The national hourly minimum wage for workers over 21 currently stands at £6.50. Those aged 18-20 are entitled to £5.13, under 18s to £3.79, and apprentices – a measly £2.73
2. In September 2014 the Trade Union Congress (TUC) voted to support raising the minimum wage to £10/hr
3. This policy was initiated by the BFAWU (Bakers' Union), and supported by campaigns like Youth Fight for Jobs and Fast Food Rights
4. According to the TUC, raising the minimum wage to £10/hr would lift 5m workers out of poverty
5. TUC policy now reads: "Currently the benefits system is used to prop up low pay and to bail out exploitative employers. Raising the minimum a worker can be paid to £10/hr would significantly reduce pressure on the benefits system, freeing up funds for much-needed investment in the NHS, education and other welfare programmes."
6. In May 2014, Seattle made headlines when their city council unanimously voted to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hr (roughly £9/hr) the highest minimum wage in North America and one of the highest in the world
7. As a result, over the next decade, 100,000 workers in Seattle will be lifted out of poverty. This victory is the equivalent of a transfer of wealth from the employers to workers of \$3bn
8. Minimum wages for apprentices, and for young workers, are well below national minimum wage
National minimum wage is well below a living wage.
More and more students and young workers (and workers of all ages) are in low-paid jobs with few rights, often on zero-hours contracts.

Conference further believes:

1. Everyone deserves the right to a secure job with a living wage and basic dignity at work.
2. Minimum wage exemptions allow intense exploitation of young people and apprentices, and by making it impossible to live on earnings, can cut off access to training.
3. The best way workers can improve our rights is to organise and campaign through trade unions, but we should also demand legal changes.
4. Current laws restricting workers' rights to organise and take action through trade unions - which the Tories plan to intensify - dramatically weaken us and are an affront to human rights.

Conference resolves:

1. NUS should support the growing call to immediately raise the minimum wage to £10/hr for all workers, with no youth exemptions
2. To work alongside trade unions and campaigns to fight for this demand to be met
3. To immediately campaign for students unions and universities to pay a living wage of no less than £10/hr
4. For NUS to launch a 'join a trade union' campaign aimed at encouraging students who work to get organised in order to help fight for improvements to wages and conditions
5. Work with SUs to support campaigns for these rights on campuses, starting with SUs' own workers.
Campaign to abolish all anti-trade union laws and laws violating workers' rights to organise and take democratic industrial action (including striking, picketing and solidarity action).
6. Work with SUs to promote trade union membership among students.

Motion 514 | International solidarity for LGBT Rights

Conference believes:

1. There are at least 76 countries which criminalise homosexuality, including at least 5 (Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen) that carry out the death penalty.
2. In many countries the situation is getting worse.

Conference further believes:

1. That the Rainbow International LGBT Activist Solidarity Fund is a charity initiated by activists in the LGBT section of the RMT to raise money for and build practical solidarity with LGBT groups in countries where LGBT people face persecution.

Conference resolves:

1. To work with Rainbow International and encourage Constituent Members to invite speakers and organise fundraising.

Motion 515 | Tamil Solidarity

Conference believes:

1. Many reports – by the UN, Channel 4, human rights organisations etc – have highlighted the slaughter of tens of thousands of Tamil civilians by Sri Lankan armed forces in 2009.
2. A general clampdown on democratic rights throughout Sri Lanka continues. Sri Lanka is still considered unsafe place for journalists, human rights campaigners and other activists. The Sri Lankan government enforced ban on various organisations and individuals who fight for human rights continues.
3. Students are constantly under attack for taking part in peaceful protest and an international solidarity movement is required to protect their rights.
4. The Jaffna University Students' Union (JUSU) is protesting against the delay in releasing a UNHRC report and calls for an independent war crime investigation.
5. Tamil Solidarity is a grassroots campaign that stands for the rights of all the students, workers and oppressed people in Sri Lanka. The campaign demands:
 - An End all police and state violence
 - No attack on the right to protest
 - Immediate release of all students and activists arrested for protest
 - No attack on democratic rights
 - Freedom of speech and freedom to organise
 - Freedom to build active trade unions

Conference resolves:

1. To send a message of solidarity and support to the students in Sri Lanka, particularly the JUSU and stating our support for Tamil Solidarity's demands.
2. To affiliate to the Tamil Solidarity Campaign.

Motion 518 | Justice for Palestine

Conference believes:

1. The Israeli military has directly attack the right to education in Gaza. UN schools and the Islamic University of Gaza were amongst the infrastructure Israel targeted during its assault on Gaza.
2. The Palestinians' human rights, including the right to education has been particularly hard hit by the siege on Gaza. Basic educational equipment including books, paper, computers, stationary and desks are all in limited supply and Israel routinely cuts off Gaza's electricity supply. Alongside this, the siege traps 1.7m people in a tiny strip of land with severely limited access to basic supplies such as food, safe water and medicine.
3. That the ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine, Israel's multitude of human rights and international law violations, its flagrancy and unaccountability to the international community is abhorrent and should be condemned.
4. In the summer of 2014 Israel invaded Gaza and launched a massive military assault. Over 2,000 Palestinians were killed and over 10,000 people were injured and hundreds of thousands were displaced. The

overwhelming majority of those killed and injured have been civilians, including hundreds of children as homes, hospitals, refugees and schools have been deliberately targeted.

5. That our government's complicity is also abhorrent, such as its supplying Israel with weaponry used against the Palestinians during last summer's 'Operation Protective Edge'.
6. The UK government is directly arming Israel with £180m worth of weapons sold in the period 2008-2012, including F16 fighter jet components, assault rifles, armoured vehicles and ammunition.
7. That the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) campaign was called for by 170 Palestinian civil society organisations in 2005 to pressure Israel into complying with international law, with support spanning groups across Palestinian society and political parties.
8. That the tactic of global boycotts effectively assisted the successful struggle against South African Apartheid.
9. That international solidarity should be conducted on the terms set by the Palestinian people, as per the BDS campaign.
10. That the Israeli government is feeling the pressure from international BDS, and that is an effective method of grassroots political action.

Conference Further Believes

1. That since NUS passed BDS policy last summer, motions in support of BDS have passed at Exeter, Keele, Brunel, Goldsmiths, Swansea, SOAS, Birkbeck and Kingston Student Unions.
2. Policy supporting BDS in various forms has also previously been passed at Kent, Sheffield, Dundee, King's College London, Birmingham, the former ULU, National University of Ireland-Galway, Essex, Glasgow Caledonian, Sussex, UCL, Edinburgh, London Metropolitan, Liverpool, Middlesex, UEL and Oxford unions.
3. Some Unions have had their democratic decisions to support BDS attacked by external bodies, falsely claiming that BDS motions are ultra vires or that political activity is beyond the remit of Student Unions.
4. That political campaigning and practical international solidarity are integral aspects of student union activity.
5. BDS is also supported by TUC, Unite the Union, NUT and UCU.

Conference resolves:

1. To condemn and call for an end to Israel's siege on Gaza and illegal occupation of the West Bank.
2. To coordinate a nationwide student day of action to commemorate UN Palestine Solidarity Day on 29 November.
3. To invite a Palestinian student as a guest speaker for NUS National Conference.
4. To reaffirm NUS policy on boycotting companies like Veolia and Eden Springs which have been identified as being complicit in human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine.
5. To affiliate to the BDS movement.
6. To develop legal advice for unions adopting BDS to defend their democratic decisions from attacks.
7. To support local BDS campaigns initiated by students.
8. To lobby institutions and unions to divest from key BDS target companies, including G4S, Veolia and Eden Springs and Hewlett Packard.
9. To disseminate resources and materials, such as the NUS 4 BDS Handbook, on how to run successful BDS campaigns on campuses.
10. To call upon the UK government to stop arming Israel.

Motion 520 | NUS against privatization

Conference believes:

1. The NHS, a largely government owned healthcare system, has been reviewed by the commonwealth fund as the best healthcare provider in the western world. This compares starkly with the USA's largely capitalist healthcare service, which was ranked 11th, the lowest rank. (1)
2. The review also noted that the NHS did this whilst only spending £2,008 per head, compared to the USA, which spent more than double this at £5,017. (1)

3. Recently the first private company to ever attempt to run an NHS hospital, Circle, pulled out of its contract due to it being no longer financially viable⁽⁵⁾. The hospital in question, Hinchbrook, was given an 'inadequate' rating by the chief inspector of hospitals hours after this announcement.
4. Attacks on the NHS by the previous and current governments have harmed students and our communities, particularly working class, LGBT and disabled people.
5. The fight to defend it continues, including important victories like Save Lewisham Hospital and innovative campaigns like the 4:1 Campaign for patient-staff ratios.

Conference further believes:

1. The Health and Social Care Act of 2012 has removed the responsibilities for the health of the citizens from the secretary of health. It has been hailed as many as a back door route for privatisation of the NHS, is the most extensive top down reorganisation of the NHS to date (2) and was not mentioned in the Conservative manifesto (3).
2. Andrew Lansley, the then secretary of health, who introduced this reform, was shown to have a conflict of interests. He accepted a £21,000 donation from John Nash, chairman of private healthcare provider Care UK (4).
3. Private enterprise has no place in healthcare, which should be provided by the state in the form of the NHS.
4. We need:
 - a. Complete reversal of privatisation and marketisation. All private providers should be removed so the NHS can be an efficient, high quality and fully public service for all.
 - b. A multi-billion increase in funding to bridge the massive gap opening up
 - c. Particular improvements in especially under-resourced areas, including provision of mental health, sexual health and transition healthcare
 - d. Decent pay and rights for healthcare workers
5. Labour criticises the Tories on the NHS but it began these attacks and hasn't yet committed to fully reversing them.

Conference resolves:

1. Organise a national activist event on defending the NHS and the implications for student welfare, working with welfare officers, Keep Our NHS Public, 4:1 Campaign, Medsin, and local NHS activist groups.
2. Demand that political parties commit to reversing privatisation and rebuilding the NHS as a properly-funded, democratic, comprehensive public service.
3. Work with trade unions where possible, including pressuring the Labour Party to which they are affiliated.
4. Support and plan protest, direct action, industrial action and workplace occupations to win.
5. To call for the repeal of the Health and Social Care Act which has had severe impact on healthcare provision in our communities

(1) <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jun/17/nhs-health>

(2) BMJ, 2011; 342:d408, Dr Lansley's Monster doi:10.1136/bmj.d408

(3) <http://www.general-election-2010.co.uk/conservative-party-manifesto-2010-general-election>

(4) "Andrew Lansley bankrolled by private healthcare provider". The Daily Telegraph. 14 January 2010. Retrieved 6 April 2011.

(5) Hinchbrook Hospital: Circle to withdraw from contract". BBC. 9 January 2015. Retrieved 9 January 2015.

Motion 521 | Support the People's Assembly National Demo

Conference believes:

1. 5 years of austerity by this coalition government has led to the biggest fall in living standards for the majority since records began in 1856.

2. Osborne declared in his Autumn Statement there's still 60% of cuts to come and this government plans to take public spending back to 1930s levels.
3. The deficit is growing and now stands close to £100bn
4. All major Westminster parties remain committed to a programme of austerity.
5. The richest 1000 people in the UK have doubled their wealth since the recession hit in 2008.

Conference further believes:

1. Whatever the result of the election austerity looks likely to continue, therefore a broad, united and national movement that can challenge this will still be necessary.
2. No solution to the crisis will come from any form of form, Islamophobia or the scapegoating of immigrants.

Conference resolves:

1. To support and mobilise students to attending the People's Assembly Against Austerity national demonstration and festival taking place in June 2015 which calls for the ending of austerity.
2. To affiliate to the People's Assembly Against Austerity and work with both the people's assembly and other campaigns to support their actions and initiatives

Motion 522 | Solidarity with the Kurdish Struggle

Conference believes:

1. Over the last year, ISIS/IS has brutally assaulted the people of Kurdistan and subjected people in their conquered territories to suppression and massacre. They have been particularly brutal towards women, religious and ethnic minorities.
2. The Kurds have been the victims of national oppression for decades, by the Iraqi, Syrian, Iranian and Turkish governments.
3. The Kurds have fought to defend their homes and towns from IS invasion at great cost of life. Women have played a frontline role in this struggle, particularly in Syrian Kurdistan where a major battle for women's rights is going on.

Conference further believes:

1. The Kurds deserve our support in the fight against IS, and the right to democratic self-determination and to live securely and free from oppression.
2. Our student movement has a proud history of international solidarity with liberation movements.
3. We should have absolutely no trust in US/Western intervention in the region – which is always for cynical motives – and be ready and organised to oppose it when necessary.

Conference resolves:

1. Express solidarity with the Kurdish resistance to IS
2. Organise a series of meetings with Kurdish groups to promote awareness of the Kurdish struggle.
3. Establish links with Kurdish student, worker and democratic organisations.
4. Promote the "Books for Rojava" initiative to help provide books for the Mesopotamian University in Syrian Kurdistan.

Motion 523 | For a nationwide annual salary cap for Vice-Chancellors in our institutions

Conference Believes:

1. According to the 2014 Times Higher Education (2014) survey of pay in the HE sector, overall, Vice-Chancellors' salaries and benefits were 5.5 per cent higher in 2012-13 than the previous year.

2. An analysis of the pay of the UK's 135 HE leaders (Vice-Chancellors) in 2013 revealed the average salary (benefits and pensions included) came to a record £247, 428, with the top earner bringing in a salary of £424,000 (The Guardian, 2013).

Conference further believes:

1. There should be a nationwide annual salary cap for Vice-Chancellors within our institutions to the sum of £300,000 per annum. This isn't to say that every Vice-Chancellor may suddenly earn £300,000 per annum. Instead, it is to say that VCs earning above £300,000 be capped at this rate and that VCs with annual wages below this quota may continue to receive pay rises, within reason, until they reach this limit.

Conference Resolves:

1. To call for each students union to lead by example in lobbying their respective Vice-Chancellor to take a pay cut.
2. To call for the establishment of a national campaign to centre on galvanising support amongst the student body for a nationwide annual salary cap for Vice-Chancellors within our institutions, with the students unions being the voice of this campaign. It is vital that we make sure that every single student is aware of the sort of facts I listed at the beginning of this speech. This action will further increase the public pressure on Vice-Chancellors to take a pay cut.

Motion 524 | Dealing with the police

Conference Believes:

1. That the issue of Police violence has been an ongoing concern in the history of the student movement.
2. That the Cops off Campus mobilisations in Bloomsbury in December 2013 were some of the largest local student demonstrations we have witnessed since the student demonstrations of 2010.
3. That resistance against police repression and persecution is a key mobilising force across the globe from the US to France, from Brazil to the UK, from Hong Kong to Ireland.
4. That the police are regularly found to be perpetuating, facilitating or otherwise condoning violence against oppressed groups
5. That since 1990, 1501 people have died in police custody, which is – on average – more than 1 person a week².
6. That despite this, no police officer has been convicted of murder since 1969.³
7. Campuses must be safe places for students to live and study
8. We have seen too many instances of hate crime taking place on campuses recently
9. Some students' unions believe that campuses should be free from police
10. The Black Lives Matter movement has raised a global discussion about racist policing
11. According to Inquest, in Britain, on average roughly one person a week has died at the hands of the police since 1991.
12. The police are agents of the state, and reproduce a capitalist white supremacist patriarchal social order.
13. Black people are disproportionately at risk of criminalisation, harassment or violence from the state.
14. That the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that Black people are up to 28 times more likely to be stopped and searched than white people.
15. That several students were arrested and badly beaten by the Metropolitan police on the streets of London at the Free Education demo; dozens were pepper sprayed at a New Years Eve prison solidarity protest, many were kettled and arrested at the #BlackLivesMatter demonstration in Shepherd's Bush; all were released without charge.

³ <https://www.opendemocracy.net/opensecurity/deaths-in-british-police-custody-no-convicted-officers-since-1969>

16. That the police force is institutionally racist, and is systematically used to attack protests, strikes and occupations.
17. Many struggles all over the world recently have raised the issue of police violence.
18. Student activists have built solidarity with campaigns against police murderers in the US and Mexico.

Conference further believes:

1. That disproportionate and violent treatment of protestors at the hands of the police, particularly against those who are members of oppressed groups, are a regular occurrence at demonstrations.
2. That police violence and abuse is a structural problem.
3. That the NUS exists to defend its members to the best of its ability against physical and institutional violence from the state.
4. That the police force disproportionately targets, arrests, and kills BME people, betraying institutional racism.
5. That the police and the criminal justice system overwhelmingly ignore violence perpetrated against Women, betraying institutional sexism.
6. That the police and the criminal justice system overwhelmingly ignore violence perpetrated against LGBTQ people, betraying institutional homophobia/biphobia/transphobia
7. That the police and the criminal justice system overwhelmingly ignore violence perpetrated against disabled people, betraying institutional ableism.
8. That damage to property is never comparable with the physical and institutional violence meted out by the police.
9. That the role of the NUS is to use its political and organizational strength to safeguard and protect, as best it can, students against the institutional violence meted out by the state.
10. That forms of political expression by the membership vary.
11. That police involvement in resolving conflicts often puts students, and particularly students who are members of oppressed groups, at risk.
12. A lot of the narrative around 'Cops off Campus' comes from big, well-resourced HE unions that have little understanding of how such action may affect smaller unions or those in FE.
13. It is dangerous for NUS to be pushing a national approach to a policy like Cops off Campus where local unions have a different stance
14. Despite the IPCC, no police officer has been convicted of murder since 1969
15. Black Trans people are disproportionately victimised by hate crime, and criminalised through homelessness and transphobic associations with sexwork
16. Black people experience disproportionate violence in psychiatric wards, Black women are fearful of and often ignored by police when reporting gender-based violence, and Black Muslims, or perceived Muslims, are targeted by counter-terrorism powers.
17. Self defence is the best defence from state violence, through social, legal, educational, protest and direct action methods.
18. That disproportionate and violent treatment of protestors at the hands of the police, particularly against those who are members of oppressed groups, are a regular occurrence at demonstrations.
19. That the police force disproportionately targets, arrests, and kills Black people, betraying institutional racism.

Conference Resolves:

1. That the NUS recognizes and condemns the institutional violence meted out by the state against students, protestors, strikers and members of oppressed groups.
2. To release a briefing on police discrimination, violence, harassment and deaths in police custody.
3. To avoid cooperation between the NUS and the police in instances where the threat presented does not endanger individuals' personal welfare, and there is no legal obligation.
4. To work with the United Families and Friends Campaign in supporting families of those killed in police custody, and promote real accountability of the police for deaths in custody.

5. To support and provide advice and guidance to students' unions that wish to implement a 'Cops off Campus' policy
6. To investigate the idea of students' unions acting as hate crime reporting centres
7. Form a working group on anti-police brutality between the Black Students' Campaign, Society & Citizenship Zone, Welfare Zone and Anti Racism and Anti Fascism committee
8. For this working group to organise a conference on police and state violence, and provide briefings and resources on know-your-rights and other forms of self-defence
9. For NUS to affiliate with United Families and Friends Campaign, and community-led police monitoring groups to support their work
10. To incorporate legal observer and know-your-rights training into NUS training including regional activist training days
11. To release a briefing on police discrimination, violence, harassment and deaths in police custody.
12. To avoid cooperation between the NUS and the police in instances where the threat presented does not endanger individuals' personal welfare, and there is no legal obligation.
13. To publicly condemn police repression and support the legal fight of students arrested on the free education and #BlackLivesMatter demonstrations.
14. To send an open letter of solidarity to the struggle in the US & Mexico.

700 Annual General Meeting

Motion 701 | NUS Elections Widening Participation - A fair Opportunity To Get Involved?

Conference believes:

1. Some students arrive at conferences not knowing they could run in elections
2. Elections are not communicated effectively and frequently enough to all student officers
3. Candidates in elections are frequently already on NUS committees or in NUS circles with limited candidates who are not already in NUS committees or circles
4. All Students throughout the country have a right to run in NUS Elections
5. Students can't participate in something they don't know about more candidates brings more diversity
6. Communications about NUS National Elections is limited
7. Communications should be as wide and frequent as possible

Conference resolves:

1. NUS to communicate elections at every opportunity as widely as possible to ensure the maximum opportunity for members to get involved in elections
2. NUS bring to the attention national elections at the following opportunities
 - a. All NUS conferences
 - b. All training events
 - c. All meetings with Student Unions including webinars etc
3. NUS to offer all officers a specific opportunity to register for upcoming elections at the earliest opportunities announcements to be delivered which are separate from other general email lists etc.
4. Any new NUS connect registration to send automatic invitation to register for elections updates.
5. NUS to undertake a research/consultation project to identify the ways to gain maximum reach to members about opportunities to run in NUS elections delegate registrations to close before officer nominations deadline with a 2 week gap and ensure all registered delegates are communicated the opportunity to run in elections immediately after registration.
6. Apply these principles to all other full time officer roles across NUS while maintaining liberation self-definition rules etc.

Motion 702 | Developing student leaders

Conference Believes:

1. That the Chief Returning Officer is not entitled to submit policy to National Conference
2. That the current Chief Returning Officer is standing down this year
3. That the current Chief Returning Officer wishes to make recommendations to conference based on their experience in the role
4. That the Democratic Procedures Committee has submitted this motion in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer in order to allow conference to debate the recommendations
5. That DPC neither supports nor opposes this motion and has submitted it purely in order to give conference the opportunity to have the debate
6. That under the current system, full time NUS officers are able to run for both block of 15 and other committees of NUS
7. That under the current system full and part time NUS Officers are unable to be a candidate for the NUS Trustee Board or Democratic Procedures Committee, unless at least five years has passed between the end of their term as a full time officer and close of nominations

Conference further believes

1. That elections should be fair and accessible to all
2. That NUS should help constituent members to develop students to become student leaders
3. That full time NUS officers running for positions other than National President or president of a Nation does not contribute to a healthy culture of developing students as student leaders
4. That full time NUS officers running positions other than National President or President of a Nation contributes to an image of NUS not being an open and accessible organisation to new students

Conference resolves:

1. To take the view that full time NUS officers should be more limited in terms of which positions they can stand for
2. To mandate DPC to write changes to the rules to be submitted to NUS Conference 2016
3. That these changes should include:
 - a. that full time NUS UK officers cannot run for an NEC position unless five years has elapsed from the day of their term finishing. This brings the rules in line with those relating to Trustee Board and Democratic Procedures Committee. The exceptions would be:
 - i. Re-running for their existing position
 - ii. Running for National President
 - iii. Running for a Nation President
4. To mandate DPC to investigate similar changes that would apply to other NUS Committees and to write additional rules changed based on their investigations
5. That any future review of NUS structures should include a review of election eligibility

Motion 703 | The importance of lived experience

Conference believes:

1. That the Chief Returning Officer is not entitled to submit policy to National Conference
2. That the current Chief Returning Officer is standing down this year
3. That the current Chief Returning Officer wishes to make recommendations to conference based on their experience in the role
4. That the Democratic Procedures Committee has submitted this motion in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer in order to allow conference to debate the recommendations
5. That DPC neither supports nor opposes this motion and has submitted it purely in order to give conference the opportunity to have the debate

6. That under the current system members of the NEC, who are not registered students at a constituent member of NUS, can run for NEC positions by using NEC and other NUS committees as their constituent member
7. That the current system allows people who have not been students for over a year to be election candidates

Conference further believes:

1. That in order to be legitimate in the eyes of our members, our elected representatives should have up-to-date lived experience as a student or should be immersed in the movement as a full or part time NUS officer or sabbatical officer

Conference resolves:

1. To take the view that election candidates for NUS positions must fall into at least one of the following categories at close of nominations:
 - a. Full time NUS officer
 - b. Part time NUS officer
 - c. Sabbatical Officer at constituent member
 - d. Registered student at constituent member
2. To mandate DPC to propose changes to the NUS Rules to reflect the spirit of this motion to be presented to NUS Conference 2016.
3. That any future review of NUS structures should include a review of election eligibility.

Motion 704 | A New Settlement – the next steps for delivering a fairer member relationship

Conference Believes:

1. In September 2014, NUS asked an independent commission to assess the costs and benefits of NUS affiliation to member students' unions and make recommendations for improvement.
2. The commission conducted an in-depth consultation to gain valuable insights and understanding of the views of students' unions and what they value and how they participate in NUS.
3. In February 2015 their recommendations were published for the consideration of students' unions and NUS in their report titled 'A New Settlement'.
4. The report outlined the commission's view that a 'new settlement' is required to significantly improve NUS' approach to membership and highlighted themes such as clarity, transparency and accessibility as key areas.
5. Their recommendations included the introduction of stronger tests of member value to be applied to NUS' activities, and new approaches to both governance and the financial model.
6. NUS is the national voice of students that must make decisions based on the collective will of its members, through 600 member students' unions.
7. NUS cannot claim to be entirely representative of its membership while it has a decision making structure in place that its members perceive as inaccessible, and lacking in transparency.
8. Students and students' unions feel that NUS take decisions without their input, and without sufficient means of recourse if they disagree with the decisions NUS makes.

Conference Further Believes:

1. 'A New Settlement' provides a potential framework to help build stronger and more transparent relationships between NUS and member students' unions.
2. For many of the recommendations to be implemented in full, we would need a funding review accompanied by a full review of how NUS makes decisions.
3. Financial capability of students' unions often dictates their ability to take part in the work of NUS, and cost of accessing NUS events continues to be a barrier to participation.

4. The decision making structures we currently have in place are not suited to a diverse student body. Antiquated means of making decisions will mean that it is the same voices being heard time and time again.
5. The future of NUS is by no means guaranteed in an ever uncertain political climate. If NUS is to remain a powerful collective movement it has to create a model of democratic engagement that is; responsive to its membership, transparent, and accessible to all.

Conference Resolves:

1. For NUS to take forward a review of its governance and financial model, informed by 'A New Settlement' and further wide consultation with students' unions, and bring outline proposals to National Conference 2016.
2. NUS should commit to a governance review that has; accessibility, transparency, and effectiveness of decision making at its heart.
3. To bring a vision and an implementation plan to NUSNC16

Motion 706 | Conference accessibility and inclusivity

Conference believes:

1. The NUS conferences and events are not as accessible as they could be.
2. The cost of some conferences and/or events are prohibitive to some Unions who may wish to be involved.
3. The placement of conferences and/or events is restrictive to some Unions who may have to travel long distances.
4. The day length of conferences and/or events can restrict access to some students with caring responsibilities, disabilities or who have to travel long distances.

Conference further believes:

1. This sends a message to some students that they can't be involved in NUS.
2. This creates an image of elitism and exclusivism for NUS.
3. By allowing this to continue, NUS are contradicting values they promote to others.

Conference resolves:

1. NUS reviews the way conferences and events are structured so as to make them as inclusive as possible.
2. That NUS be mandated to implement the outcome of any such review.

Ordinary NEC motions

Motion 1 | Nation's Assembly Elections

NEC Believes:

1. NUS Wales, NUS Scotland and NUS USI have a combined membership of over 1million students.
2. The general election saw students unions' across the UK running campaigns to register students to vote, facilitating hustings & questioning prospective parliamentary candidates, and mobilising their membership on polling day to ensure students engaged in the democratic process.
3. NUS UK, along with other electoral campaigning organisations, invested time, money and resources targeting students ahead of the general election, resulting in a higher turnout of students and young people who were more politically aware, with deeper political knowledge and with higher levels of engagement in the political process.
4. That in 2016, all three devolved nations will elect the representatives of their devolved governments.
5. Across the nations, devolved governments have varying degrees of devolved power, but all legislate on areas directly affecting both domestic students and students studying within that country, such as education and housing.

6. Changes to the electoral registration process by Westminster have significantly impacted on students, and where the devolved nations don't have devolved power over their electoral processes these effects are being felt hardest as the rolled out changes clash with the assembly elections.

NEC Further Believes:

1. A lack of understanding and education as to the structure and importance of devolution means the engagement of students in the devolved assembly/parliamentary elections is often low, despite those governments having the greatest impact on their day to day life.
2. Historically, those who disengage from the democratic process find themselves unrepresented in government priorities, and disproportionately hit by funding cuts.
3. After the general election, it will be vital that momentum is maintained in interest and attention on the assembly/parliament elections in the nations, in order to capitalise on the current levels of political engagement from students.
4. As the electoral spotlight is turned off by other national organisations following the end of the general election, NUS UK must ensure it supports NUS Wales, NUS USI and NUS Scotland in promoting and campaigning around the assembly elections
5. Engagement in these elections - both in manifesto lobbying and high student participation - can not only benefit students in the devolved nations, but can be a force for change across the UK.
6. The student movement has an important role to play in encouraging and supporting direct action, but annual demos in London aren't always the best use of NUS' time and money for influencing devolved powers and can leave students in the Nations feeling marginalised from NUS and the student movement.
7. That over the next year NUS UK has an opportunity to support the nations to increase the turnout of young people and students in their elections, and ensure students are at the forefront of political decisions being made.

NEC Resolves:

1. For NUS to actively and adequately support and resource the respective Assembly/Parliament election campaigns being led by NUS Scotland, NUS Wales & NUS-USI in the year ahead.
2. For the President and Vice Presidents to ensure their work plans are inclusive of devolved Nations elections and to offer support to Nations officers over the course of the year.
3. For the Vice President (Society and Citizenship) to work with the Nations officers to deliver a piece of work which encourages voter registration for students in the Nations and highlights devolved issues in each of the Nations which affect students.
4. For the Vice President (Union Development) to work with the Nations officers to deliver a piece of work which supports students' unions to develop campaigns to lobby local candidates on issues affecting students.

Motion 2 | Save The Human Rights Act

NEC Believes:

1. David Cameron has announced plans to scrap the Human Rights Act and replace it with a British Bill of Rights.
2. In a speech to the Conservative Party Conference David Cameron said "at long last, with a Conservative Government after the next election, this country will have a new British Bill of Rights to be passed in our Parliament, rooted in our values and as for Labour's Human Rights Act? We will scrap it, once and for all."
3. In the aftermath of the devastation of two world wars, our human rights were enshrined in law to ensure that these atrocities would never be repeated
4. The Human Rights Act in the UK, protects the right to be treated as equals with equal access to protection regardless of gender, sexuality, race or age are protected by law.
5. It's still unsure what the British Bill of Rights will contain, but we do know that it would stop the European Court of Human Rights from making binding judgments within the UK

NEC Further Believes:

1. The Human Rights Act provides people the chance to challenge abuses of power, negligence, and inequality
2. It was a Labour government that brought in the Human Rights Act in 1998.
3. Since then, it has enabled disabled people to challenge the bedroom tax.
4. The European Court of Human Rights has stopped LGBT people from being dismissed from the military because of their sexual orientation and made ground-breaking judgments in defence of workers' rights.
5. This Government only has a majority in Parliament of eight, and there are a handful of backbenchers in the Conservative benches who will vote down the changes to our human rights framework
6. The text of the Good Friday Agreement invokes the European Convention on Human Rights as one of a number of safeguards to ensure that the institutions the agreement created work effectively & therefore any changes could have profound ramifications in Northern Ireland.

NEC Resolves:

1. To publically oppose any changes to the Human Rights Act
2. That if the changes are read in Parliament NUS to hold a demonstration outside Parliament
3. NUS should try to engage its membership to hold their local MP's to account and lobby to ensure that their local MP votes against any changes
4. NUS should work with Charity organisations like amnesty international to lobby and oppose any changes to the Human Rights Act.

Motion 3 | Not On Our Watch

NEC Believes:

1. The Conservative Party won the general election and is governing alone following a five year coalition with the Liberal Democrats during which sweeping cuts were imposed.
2. The Conservative majority is relatively weak, with only 331 seats, a backbench rebellion of just 8-10 MPs could unseat the government
3. Twelve billion pounds of cuts in non-pensioner welfare spending have been announced. This is ten percent of the entire welfare budget
4. Proposals for these cuts include freezing benefit payments (a real terms cut), stricter 'fit for work' tests, increases to the bedroom tax, and barring under 25s from incapacity benefits (including Employment and Support Allowance)
5. They also intend to remove the UK as a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights, replacing it with an unseen bill of British rights. This would be strongly negative for disabled people who have appealed right to the European Court of Human Rights regarding cuts to social care and access to the community, as well as for many other groups, especially asylum seekers.
6. The anti extremism measures Cameron proposes will "silence any group or individual believed to be undermining democracy, or the British values of tolerance and mutual respect"
7. The election win will be bad for disabled people and worsen the cuts we face, while disabled people are already dying as a result of cuts to care and benefits, as well as errors from a massively overstretched NHS and social services
8. With a small majority and less than a quarter of eligible voters backing them, the Conservative mandate to impose sweeping cuts is weak
9. There are many groups raising information about and fighting these cuts. They include Disabled People Against the Cuts, Alliance Fighting for Inclusive Education, Black Triangle, Mental Health Resistance Network, and too many to list
10. Conferences have policy about many of these cuts but not regarding the wider ideological project surrounding them. This is dangerous, elitist, and self centered, based on an individualistic attitude of working and

succeeding in a non-existent meritocracy ignoring the positional and structural oppressions facing many groups, rather than a communal attitude of supporting others and spreading the individual costs of disability and unemployment through a benefits system supporting those who need it, funded by tax from those who can afford it.

Conference Resolves:

1. To contact other networks also aligned against cuts affecting disabled people and work with them as appropriate in order to fight these cuts as effectively as possible, and attend and organise their activities where possible
2. To campaign against any extremism measures that do not protect freedom of speech, ideas, and assembly
3. To call for a campaign of escalating direct action with the goal of preventing these cuts and bringing down the weak Conservative majority in government as achieved by students in Quebec, thereby saving the lives, dignity, and independence of untold numbers of disabled people these cuts would otherwise destroy

Motion 5 | Teach Higher

NEC Believes:

1. That the University of Warwick is piloting TeachHigher, an “academic services department” to oversee “those seeking interim teaching or research assignments”
2. TeachHigher does not offer contracts of employment but instead temporary assignments.
3. That TeachHigher will exclude some postdoctoral staff on visas, as it does not fulfil the requirements of a Tier 2 visa - an actual post and at least £20,000 in salary.³
4. That women, people of colour and other oppressed groups are more likely to be in precarious employment.
5. That on 14th February 2014 at a meeting to discuss fair remuneration with students who teach, the Registrar stated: “We haven't come here to listen to your views, leave the room and ignore you.”
6. <https://www.teachhigher.com/News/update-on-teachhigher>
7. https://www.teachhigher.com/Media/TeachHigher/Terms/T_and_C.pdf
8. <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/international-office/immigration/current-students/working-afterstudies>
9. https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/Women_and_casualisation_0.pdf
10. <https://www.tuc.org.uk/economic-issues/equality-issues/black-workers/number-black-and-asian-workerslow-paid-jobs-13-cent>
11. <https://www.warwick.ac.uk/blogs/blog/lucy-gill/2014/02/14/Postgrads-Who-Teach-progress-on-pay-and-why-you-should-care/>

NEC further Believes:

1. That contrary to the promise in Notes 6, there has been almost no consultation nor communication with students who teach regarding TeachHigher.
2. That TeachHigher amounts to a form of casualisation of the work force at Warwick.
3. That casualisation is detrimental to those who teach and those who are taught.
4. That without fair working conditions and remuneration teaching quality suffers, which impacts on students' learning.
5. That TeachHigher in its current form is bad For universities. For academics. For students.
6. That by TeachHigher assignments not being sufficient for a Tier 2 visa, this limits the pool of academics that can provide teaching at Warwick. This harms the education of our members.

NEC resolves:

1. To reject TeachHigher in its current form.

2. To oppose any form of TeachHigher (or otherwise named arrangement for hourly-paid teachers) that does not offer terms and conditions that meet the requirements of a Tier 2 visa.
3. To campaign for a universal contract system for all hourly-paid teachers, that respects the principle of equal pay for equal work, and that pays staff for all hours worked, including preparation, teaching, office hours and marking.
4. To oppose any outsourcing of academic jobs, whether through wholly-owned subsidiaries or not.
5. To demand a fair rate of pay for teaching (including marking, preparation and office hours) at an appropriate point on the national pay scale.
6. To show solidarity with and offer reasonable support to students and staff who wish to oppose the continued or further casualisation of teaching, including any student- or staff-led direct or industrial action in support of the aims of this policy.
7. To support, help promote, and encourage members to attend the national demonstration against casualization called by the affected staff and UCU branch at Warwick University on the 19th June.

Emergency Motion 1 | Solidarity with Sondos Asem

NEC Believes:

1. That being able to participate in civil society is a fundamental human right.
2. That the death penalty has no place in a modern society and is deplorable in all cases.
3. That on 16th May 2015 Sondos Asem, a student at Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government, was sentenced to death in absentia in Egypt, as part of a mass trial where over 100 others were also sentenced.
4. That Sondos Asem served as foreign press secretary under former Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi, who was the first democratically elected head of state in Egyptian history following the fall of Hosni Mubarak's authoritarian regime in 2011.
5. The decision to sentence Sondos Asem to death, alongside former president Morsi and a number of his aides and other public figures, is under appeal and the death sentence is subject to non-binding ratification by the grand mufti, due to report on June 2nd.
6. That Oxford University Students' Union (OUSU) passed an emergency motion on Friday 29th May in support of Sondos Asem and to condemn the sentence that she had been given.
7. That Sondos Asem is safe and is currently residing in the United Kingdom whilst reading for a Master of Public Policy at Oxford.

NEC Resolves:

1. To stand in solidarity with Sondos Asem and to condemn this sentence.
2. To call on the Egyptian authorities to overturn this decision and to protect the political and legal rights of all Egyptians.

Emergency Motion 2 | Support the Jewish Community, Fight Against neo-Nazism

NEC Believes

1. Neo-Nazi groups, fronted by Piers Mellow, a member of the New British Union¹, have planned a rally against 'Jewish Privilege' on Saturday July 4th in Golders Green London.
2. Mellow has previously been a member or taken part in activities organised by the English Defence League, the racist English Volunteer Force and the fascist South East Alliance. He has also attended lectures by the Holocaust denier David Irving.¹
3. The rally planned is an antisemitic march designed to target North London's Jewish Community. The rally is taking place in Golders Green, an area with a large and vibrant Jewish community. This antisemitic rally is following the antisemitic 'Liberate Stamford Hill' demonstration which took place in May 2015.¹

4. Due to the event being on Shabbat (a Saturday) the observant within the Jewish community will be particularly targeted and will be unable to counter-demonstrate due to religious restrictions on Shabbat.
5. That at Conference NUS passed a motion to no platform the racist far-right National Action group whose members may attend the antisemitic demonstration on July 4th. In light of this the NUS needs to show its commitment to the motion and its principled stance against all forms of racism such as antisemitism, neo-Nazism and Fascism.

NEC Further Believes

1. That NUS as an anti-racist, anti-fascist organisation should stand with the Jewish community in solidarity against neo-Nazism.
2. The police are allowing the rally to take place as they are "legally...powerless" to stop it. The Jewish community needs to be protected and supported from the Neo-Nazi's who will be in attendance.
3. That neo-Nazism is a growing phenomenon and that although the rally is on July 4th is aimed at the Jewish community. Hatred that starts with the Jews never ends with the Jews.
4. Jews are a marginalised group who are oppressed and discriminated against.

NEC Resolves

1. To mandate NUSUK as an organisation to support the counter-demonstration and stand in solidarity with the Jewish community.
2. To mandate the National President to release a signed statement along with all officers and NEC members calling for students to attend the counter-demonstration and demonstrate in support of the Jewish community.
3. To mandate NUS to work with UJS (Union of Jewish Students) to organise a student contingency at the demonstration by sending emails, leaflets and calling for Student Unions, and the NEC attending the counter-demonstration to use NUS banners.
4. To mandate NUS to reaffirm its opposition to neo-Nazism, fascism and antisemitism and highlight the dangers of these hatreds.

NEC Policy Passed 2015/16

Meeting 1: 20 July 2015

Motion 21 | Motion of Censure Against the National President

NEC believes

1. That NUS NEC voted in favor of BDS policy in August 2014 and that this was re-affirmed in June 2015.
2. That in January 2015 a decision was made to accept Coca Cola sponsorship for the NUS Awards, despite this company being a target of the BDS movement.
3. That the NUS President (Megan Dunn) and Vice-President, Union Development (Richard Brooks) are responsible for the Student Unions 2015 event, which the NUS Awards are part of.
4. That many NUS Full Time Officers, members of the NEC, and Officers at Constituent Members raised concerns via email (On June 23rd, two weeks before the event) but received no reply.
5. That a meeting between Megan Dunn and concerned NUS FTOs was held (on July 2nd, 5 days before the event) at which Megan Dunn agreed to apologies for accepting the sponsorship, that this would never happen again, and that a public statement would be released to this effect.
6. That on July 6th (the day before the event) some NUS FTOs were privy to a draft statement which instead denied that Coca Cola was in breach of the BDS policy, and stated a 'pride' in NUS' relationship with them.
7. This was challenged, and resulted in meetings that evening between Richard Brooks (Vice President, Union Development) and concerned NUS FTOs.
8. Agreement could not be found over the wording of the statement due to Richard Brooks' and Megan Dunn's refusal to accept that Coca Cola is a target of the BDS movement or to release an apology for accepting their sponsorship - it was agreed that no statement would be released without further discussion.
9. That on July 7th (the first day of the event) a statement was released that fell short of an apology, only referenced allegations that Coca Cola are in breach of the BDS policy, and stated 'pride' in NUS' relationship with them.
10. Later that day, the Palestinian Boycott National Committee sent an email to NUS clarifying that Coca Cola is a target for boycott, divestment and sanctions
11. On July 8th (the day of the Awards) during the Presidential Address to all delegates, Megan Dunn stated that she did not vote for or believe in BDS and would instead pursue a strategy of 'constructive engagement'

NEC further Believes

1. That the acceptance of Coca Cola's sponsorship was in breach of the policy of this Union.
2. That both the public statement and Presidential Address were in breach of the policy of this Union.
3. That 'constructive engagement' is not a boycott, and that any officer's personal view is irrelevant when applying policy.
4. That releasing a public statement which 4 of the 5 Vice Presidents do not agree with shows a lack of integrity.
5. That a failure to respond to 4 of the 5 UK Liberation Officers and International Students' Officer falls short of the standards expected of a President or Vice-President.
6. That all of the above is disrespectful to student democracy.

NEC Resolves:

1. To formally censure Megan Dunn (NUS President) on the above grounds.
2. To mandate the NUS President and Vice President (Union Development) to publish a formal apology stating that It was a mistake to accept Coca Cola's sponsorship and that this, and previous NUS statements, broke the policy of the Union.

Motion 1 | Supporting Students' Union Officers

NEC Believes:

15. There is a significant disparity in the level of help, advice & support provided to students' union officers by their own Students' Union.
16. Many small & specialist Students' Unions, in particular those Students' Unions in Further Education (FE) are under resourced in relation to their staff and support structures for Students' Union officers.
17. Student Officers across the country often look to NUS; the organisation & its elected leadership (full time officers, NEC members and those in other roles) for advice and support at a variety of times throughout the year, both on a short term and long term basis.
18. There has been an increase in the number and severity of incidents relating to Student Officers & online harassment/cyber bullying.

NEC Resolves:

8. NUS must establish a time period in which Students' Union officers can expect support in critical periods.
9. NUS should facilitate networks of Students' Unions and Students' Union officers around the country, through enhanced training relating to effective networking and crisis management.
10. Experienced Students' Union officers should be encouraged and supported to develop mentor/buddy style relationships with less experienced officers to allow them to thrive in their roles
11. NUS to consider how online harassment/cyber bullying negatively impacts on Student Officers, in particular with our Liberation Officers and take steps to protect the welfare of Student Officers and the diversity of our movement.

Motion 7 | National Demonstration for Free Education

NEC Believes:

1. That National Conference 2014 voted by a substantial majority to "oppose and campaign against all methods of charging students for education – including tuition fees and a 'graduate tax' which is nothing more than a euphemism for 'student debt'." It voted "to make the case for free education and demand that free, accessible, quality education, and decent wages, public services and benefits".
2. That National Conference 2015 reaffirmed this and voted for, "a liberated curriculum", "the abolition of student debt", "open and public access to universities and colleges, democratically-controlled institutions free from surveillance and harassment by police and immigration officials" and "the abolition of all fees for home and international students".
3. That National Conference 2015 voted for "a strategy of protest and direct action to demand reversal of all cuts and expansion of public services and decent jobs, funded by properly enforcing increased taxes on the rich and taking democratic control over the banks".
4. That the National Executive Council meeting of June 2nd voted to support the NUS Disabled Students Campaign policy of, "a campaign of escalating direct action with the goal of preventing these cuts and bringing down the weak Conservative majority in government as achieved by students in Quebec".
5. That the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts are organising a demonstration for free education on November 4th.
6. That last year's national demonstration was well-attended, with over 10,000 students reported as going, and represented one of the largest examples of student mobilisation in recent years.
7. That last year's national demonstration cost NCAFC around £10,000 to organise. This included printing for 150,000 leaflets, 20,000 A3 posters and 40,000 stickers, a banner, placards, steward training, and the cost of renting a PA system and a stage.
8. In 2011 NUS allocated a £4,000 budget for NCAFC demo against the Higher Education White Paper, and made this budget available for the organisers to spend on materials for the demo.

9. That the fight for free education is not one that will be won quickly or easily, but one that requires a long-term strategy and a series of large, visible and disruptive actions.
10. That demonstrations are one such tool at our disposal, and when they are taking place in line with our objectives as an organisation and our policies, NUS should support them and make them a success.
11. That demonstrations require a lot of organisational work, and that NUS is best placed to shoulder the burden of this task.
12. That safety on demonstrations are of paramount importance, not least because of the presence of the police, and that safety is best assured by students being seen to have the public support of their national union.
13. There is a clear policy mandate from previous National Conferences and meetings of the National Executive Council to escalate action against the government to win free education.

NEC Resolves:

1. To support the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts demonstration on November 4th.
2. To support the 'free education organising meeting' taking place in October, initiated by the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts, and to encourage students' unions and other civil society organisations to attend and make the event a success.
3. To commit to ensuring the demonstration is safe, well-attended and successful by creating a budget of £4,000 and making this available to the organisers as soon as possible but by the latest on the 11th of August, and for this to be overseen by the Vice-President for Society and Citizenship.
4. To pay for and conduct a risk assessment for the demonstration.
5. To mandate the National President, in conjunction with the Vice-Presidents for Further and Higher Education, to issue a public statement within the week declaring NUS support for the demonstration and to send this to all constituent members, encouraging them to organise transport and attend.
6. For the Vice-President Society and Citizenship to use NUS communications to publicise the demonstration as needed by the organisers, and to have responsibility for overseeing all the above.
7. For the National President to arrange a meeting with the organisers, President and Vice-Presidents and the NUS Liberation Officers to discuss NUS's involvement, and to ensure that regular meetings and communication take place between NUS officers (including NUS Liberation Officers) and the organisers.
8. To issue a press release within the week outlining all the above.

Motion 2 | Protecting Students' Unions in Northern Ireland

NEC Believes:

1. That in England, Scotland & Wales legislation exists which facilitates protection for the existence, operation and democracy of students' unions.
2. In Northern Ireland there is not currently and never has been any provision under law for the existence of independent and autonomous students' unions across Higher and Further Education.
3. That adequately funded, properly resourced, sustainable and autonomous students' unions not only provide the vehicle through which the voices of students can be and are heard within their institutions but also strengthen the College or University in how it delivers education.
4. Education should be about partnership, and when we have strong and properly resourced students' unions the seeds of that partnership are not only present, but both learners and institutions benefit.
5. NUS-USI has policy to continue to lobby and campaign for the creation of legislation in Northern Ireland to enshrine protections for the existence of students' unions which are independent in law.
6. That NUS-USI has made this issue a priority for the year ahead and a headline ask in the upcoming Assembly elections in Northern Ireland.

NEC Resolves:

1. Where relevant and possible, for NUS to adequately resource and support the work of NUS-USI to effectively deliver the best possible result for Students' Unions in Northern Ireland in developing draft legislation that is comprehensive and fit for purpose.

2. To mandate the NUS Vice President (Union Development) to work closely with the NUS-USI President to ensure knowledge and resources and effectively shared to deliver for all member unions in Northern Ireland.

Motion 10 | Let's do some proper campaigning for grants

NEC Believes:

1. Students whose families earn less than £25,000 will have their £3,387 a year maintenance grant converted into a loan, and this is tapered off up to those who earn under £40,000 a year.
2. Under this system, students from low income families would need to take out more in loans and therefore graduate with more debt than students from wealthier backgrounds.
3. The abolition of grants is clearly regressive and an attack on working class students.
4. A YouGov poll showed that 52% of people polled opposed the policy, with only 24% supporting.¹
5. There is clearly public sympathy for retaining maintenance grants, and given the slender Tory majority, NUS should campaign against this fully.

NEC Resolves:

1. Publicise Early Day Motion 294 submitted by Jeremy Corbyn by:
 - a. Sending it to every constituent member and asking them to lobby their local MPs to sign it.
 - b. Contacting all 650 MPs directly as NUS and asking them to sign.
 - c. Write to the leaders of the Greens, SNP, DUP, SDLP, Plaid as well as Norman Lamb and Tim Farron of the Lib Dems asking them to support our EDM on student grants and publish their opposition to the cut.
2. To direct the Parliamentary office to explore the possibilities of other work in Parliament to oppose this.
3. To work with other student organisations including the NCAFC to hold a demonstration outside the constituency offices of both Sajid Javid and Jo Johnson by the end of August.
4. To write to trade unions and the People's Assembly and draw them into any broader campaign.
5. To encourage CMs and local campaign groups to target Tory MPs with protests, direct action, etc.
6. To lobby the Labour Party to take a clear public stance against this attack and in favour of raising grants.

Motion 3 | Removing the invisible barriers to succeeding in education

NEC Believes:

1. Identifying characteristics included on assessments (e.g. students' names) has been shown to actively influence the final grades awarded to those assessments.
2. Students' grades should be based on academic merit alone. No student should receive a grade based on anything apart from their academic performance in assessments, except in instances of mitigating or exceptional circumstances which have been accounted for.
3. Identifying characteristics may include; ethnicity, socio-economic background, nationality, disability, marriage status, etc., or prior conceptions those marking assessments may have of students.
4. That there may be instances where creating complete anonymity for students may be difficult due to specific circumstances or resources which are available.
5. Students in Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) should be able to study free of the concern that who they are will affect their progression or attainment.
6. The use of anonymous marking is increasing across HE and FE, with clear benefits being seen in the attainment of specific sub groups of students, including; International, BAME, Women and Disabled.

NEC Resolves:

1. To campaign for the introduction of anonymised marking where practicable of assessments in institutions.
2. To campaign for anonymised marking to be recognised as an established part of Quality Assurance.

3. To research the feasibility of complete anonymity in graded assessments in order to ensure maximum benefits to students.

Motion 4 | Student Opportunities for all: Tackling Local Barriers

NEC Believes:

1. NUS continues to work with students' unions, partner organisations and student networks (e.g. Student Publication Association) to understand our national role in supporting clubs, societies, fundraising, volunteering, enterprise, employability and media.
2. NUS has recently worked with Universities UK (UUK) to understand how to raise levels of volunteering and social action within Higher Education. A report, drawing on existing literature, has been produced that identifies the key barriers to students taking part in opportunities across all institutions:
 - a. Language and understanding
 - b. Motivations
 - c. Time
 - d. Management of volunteering
 - e. Perception and previous negative experience
 - f. Financial
 - g. Space
 - h. Environment
 - i. Access to expert support and advice
 - j. Bureaucracy

NEC Further Believes:

1. These barriers identified can inform how national resources should be used to make a real difference locally.
2. These barriers, which have been drawn up primarily considering experiences within Higher Education, are widely relevant across Further Education institutions as well, although further work may be required to understand which are the most important in different circumstances.
3. An effective way for students' unions to develop their student opportunities is for their work, including discussions with institutions, to be focused around breaking down these barriers within their local context. In practice this might mean working from the Higher Education Social Action and Student Opportunities Framework, as proposed in the report.
4. NUS at a national level has a role to champion this approach and to prepare students' unions and institutions to discuss these barriers seriously with students and with themselves. This should include developing ways of gathering evidence to understand the importance of student opportunities within education and society, so there is a clear, shared, national understanding of why student opportunities should be a central part of our thinking.

NEC Resolves:

1. NUS to plan future work in the area of student opportunities so that either barriers identified are being broken down at a national level, or SUs and institutions are supported to do it locally.
2. NUS to consider the role that accreditation, such as Quality Students' Unions might play to help make progress against these barriers
3. NUS to review how different operating models for students' unions, now and in the future, might change the nature of these barriers.
4. NUS to develop and help provide students' unions and institutions with evidence of the impact of student opportunities to both individuals but also to wider society.

Motion 13 | Condolences for FOSIS President, Bashir Osman

NEC believes

1. The Federation of Student Islamic Societies represents Muslim students across the country through affiliated societies.
2. Their President, Bashir Osman, died in an accident whilst visiting Switzerland.
3. We are shocked and saddened by the sudden death of a student leader widely respected and recognised for his role in representing students across the UK.

NEC resolves

1. That NUS notes our condolences for Bashir Osman, and notes our thoughts for his loved ones, his colleagues at FOSIS, and the students across the country which he represented with commitment and passion.

Motion 16 | Funky Dragon

NEC Believes:

1. Funky Dragon was an organisation designed to enable children and young people in Wales to get their voices heard by Government and others who make decisions about policies and services that affect their lives.
2. On 01.10.2014 Funky Dragon closed meaning that Wales has become the only country in Europe without a National Youth Assembly.
3. Funky Dragon was said to be replaced by an as yet unknown mechanism. This decision was taken by government without any consultation with children and young people.
4. Funky Dragon has still not yet been replaced in any form.
5. With the vast cuts to local council budgets young people are being stripped of vital youth services.
6. The reduced council budgets are not only directly affecting statutory and non-statutory youth services but is shutting young people out from the opportunity of engaging in democracy.

NEC Further Believes:

1. The British Youth Council, is the national youth council of the UK.
2. The organization that is predominantly working across the youth sector in Wales is Cymru Ifanc. Cymru Ifanc is not run by young people. They encourage young people to get involved in making decisions and engage with their local youth councils.
3. The BYC work with networks of local youth councils, to empower young people aged 25 and under, wherever they are from, to have a say and be heard.
4. They aim to help young people to participate in decisions that affect them; have a voice and campaign on issues they believe in, inspire them to have a positive impact, and gain recognition for their positive contribution to communities, society and the world.
5. That with the current season of elections, every effort should be made to engage young people with politics and politicians with young people.
6. Young people should be presented with the opportunity to engage in democracy.

NEC Resolves:

1. To mandate the NUS Vice President (Society & Citizenship) to actively work with the officer team of NUS Wales and the British Youth Council especially in the run up to Welsh assembly elections to engage young people in democracy.
2. To mandate the NUS Vice President (Society & Citizenship) to work with NUS Wales to lobby the Welsh Assembly, calling on them to re-create Funky Dragon or a similar yet improved independent organisation lead by young people for young people.
3. NUS UK should work with NUS Wales to lobby local authorities to ring-fence funding to fund local youth councils.

Motion 5 | Demonstration against welfare cuts

NEC Believes:

1. That the budget of July 8th outlined £12bn of welfare cuts, including:
 - a. Scrapping the automatic entitlement to housing benefit for 18-21 year olds (with exceptions for the vulnerable and "other hard cases").
 - b. New Employment and Support Allowance claimants in the work-related activity group will have their claims aligned with the Job Seekers' Allowance rate.
 - c. A freeze in most working age benefits for four years - representing a real terms cut.
 - d. Lowering the benefits cap from £26,000 to £23,000 in London, and £20,000 in the rest of the country
 - e. Restricting tax credits and Universal Credit to two children for families who have a third or subsequent child after April 2017.
 - f. The Chancellor made references implying that claiming benefits is a lifestyle choice which drains the ordinary taxpayer - another example of the toxic rhetoric of this government and the demonisation of oppressed people.
2. That the Coalition government made huge cuts to welfare and in particular disability benefits, and that the NUS Disabled Students Campaign have been campaigning to fight this.
3. That the National Executive Council meeting of June 2nd voted "to support and encourage student organised actions against any government department or contractor responsible for cutting benefits or services or implementing welfare 'reform'", and, "for this work to be coordinated by the Vice President for Welfare, supported by all other Officers, in direct consultation with the Liberation Campaigns".-
4. That the National Executive Council meeting of June 2nd unanimously voted to support the NUS Disabled Students Campaign policy, which previously passed unanimously at Disabled Students Conference, for, "a campaign of escalating direct action with the goal of preventing these cuts and bringing down the weak Conservative majority in government as achieved by students in Quebec".-
5. That defending disabled people, the young and unemployed, and all oppressed groups from benefit cuts must be one of the priorities of this union.
6. That our solidarity in policy must be translated into action.
7. That the work of groups such as the People's Assembly, Disabled People Against Cuts, Boycott Workfare, UK Uncut and many more have been inspiring in mobilising thousands of people against these cuts.
8. That we should seek to support future actions conducted by these groups and initiate some of our own, student-led direct action.
9. LGBT young people are already identified as having a higher risk of experiencing suicidal feelings, self-harm, drug or alcohol misuse and mental health problems such as depression and anxiety and are more likely to be made homeless as a consequence of trying to escape a difficult home life and being disowned by their families.
10. The new welfare 'reforms' where 18-21 year olds are disqualified from automatically receiving housing benefit are going to have a significant impact on young LGBT people who are estranged or made homeless as a consequence of trying to escape LGBTphobic families.
11. This new regime will mean that 18-21 year old LGBT people struggling with LGBTphobic families will lock themselves in the closet and hide their sexuality and/or gender identity, avoid becoming homeless.

NEC Resolves:

1. To mandate the Vice-President for Welfare to organise a demonstration outside the Department for Work and Pensions, in the third week of September, with slogans of 'No Welfare Cuts' and 'Defend Our Benefits'.
2. To mandate the Vice-President for Welfare to contact other organisations about co-organising this demonstration, including but not limited to:
 - a. Trade unions and the TUC, in particular their youth and disabled sections.
 - b. The People's Assembly
 - c. Boycott Workfare
 - d. Disabled People Against Cuts
 - e. Keep Our NHS Public

3. To mandate the President and all Vice-Presidents to publicise this demonstration and support calls for students to attend.
4. To mandate the Vice-President for Welfare to support the NUS Disabled Students Campaign's Day of Action Against Austerity on the International Day of Disabled People, December 3rd, and to mobilise disabled and non-disabled students to take part.
5. To issue a press release within the week outlining all the above.
6. That the NUS VP Welfare and the VP Society and Citizenship will work with the NUS LGBT+ Officers to combat the detrimental impact the new welfare reforms will have on LGBT people.
7. That NUS VP Welfare will organise an action around homelessness and estrangement of young people, and how the welfare 'reforms' will increase the number of estranged and homeless young people, through a 'sleep out'.
8. The 'sleep out' will be a call to action from NUS where a sleep-out will take place in London, organised by NUS, and students Unions' will also be encouraged to organise their own 'sleep outs' throughout the UK on their campuses to raise awareness of estranged and homeless young people and how the welfare 'reforms' will contribute to these numbers increasing.
9. These actions will take place before December 2015.

Motion 19 | Campaigning for urgent and adequate action to prevent runaway climate change in the context of the Paris Climate Summit

NEC Believes:

1. The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will take place in Paris from 30 November 2015 to 11 December 2015, is likely to be yet another climate summit that will fall far short of agreeing the urgent changes that are needed to prevent runaway climate change and all the consequences that will come with it.
2. Preventing the worst impacts of climate change requires urgent action, but powerful vested interests are currently preventing this from happening.
3. Without a strong grassroots movement politicians and world leaders will not have the political will to tackle those vested interests and ensure that the required action is taken.
4. Climate change is not an isolated issue but one that is intimately connected with a host of other serious issues such as social and economic inequality and injustice, both in its causes and in its effects. Climate change must start being acknowledged as a class, race and feminist issue and embraced by the left as an equal priority to other social justice issues as it is equally caused by and must be tackled through critiquing and fighting market driven economics.
5. Therefore an holistic approach to tackling all these issues is required, so that by solving one of these issues the other ones are not exacerbated. If tackled properly, the solution to each of these problems should also help to solve the other ones.
6. The primary cause and driving force behind all these issues is the unbridled power of neoliberal ideology and the free market economy that it has spawned and is upholding.
7. So long as politicians and world leaders are under the sway of this ideology such Conferences can do little to tackle the increasingly urgent issues of climate change and economic injustice.
8. Therefore we cannot rely either on politicians or on UN Conferences to agree on the radical and large scale changes that are needed to solve these issues, so a massive grassroots movement needs to be built in order to tackle climate change and give world leaders the political will to agree on such changes, and students in the UK and worldwide need to be at the very heart of such a movement, driving it forward with vision, energy and a strong sense of urgency.

NEC Resolves:

1. In the context of the UN Climate Conference NUS should use the attention and media coverage climate change will be receiving to campaign for urgent and adequate action on runaway climate change.

2. NUS should work with other relevant groups to call for and organise actions that are informed by the politics of our beliefs.

Motion 17 | Support the Tube workers!

NEC resolves

1. To support London Underground workers' in their dispute about pay, night working and job cuts/ticket office closures - because their demands are fully justified and because of our more general solidarity with workers' struggles and opposition to the bosses.
2. To seek to mobilise CMs and students in support of the Tube workers' actions.

Motion 14 | Free the Thai 14, supporting the Thai student movement

NEC believes:

1. Thailand currently is ruled by a military junta which took control of the country after a coup d'état which has imposed martial law, nationwide curfew, banned political gatherings, imposed internet censorship, taken control of the media, and have arrested and detained politicians and anti-coup activists; including student movement leaders.
2. The Prime Minister of Thailand, her Government, and the national legislatures have been abolished in a military coup since 22nd May 2014.
3. The student movement in Thailand have been leading the fight for freedom and democracy against harsh crackdowns on activism.
4. The Chief of the Military has refused to release student activists which have been detailed in case they "inspire more protests and lead to problems for the nation".¹
5. Student activists detained in the last week will face a military court with the penalty of up to 7 years.

NEC further believes:

1. The right to freedom of expression is a human right that must transcended national barriers.
2. That we all have a right to live in a society built on democracy, freedom, and fair trial.
3. That students across Thailand and beyond play a vital role in shaping a better world through their collective action, and commends the work of our fellow students.
4. That human rights infringements by a military junta cannot be ignored by the international community movement.

NEC resolves:

1. That NUS will continue to oppose the harsh infringement on student activism at home and abroad.
2. To support the Thai student movement in their fight for freedom and democracy.
3. To publicly join calls for the release of student activists facing military court.

Emergency Motion 1 | International Students

NEC Believes:

1. The new immigration changes affecting international students were announced last week.
2. The changes will have significant negative impact on the lives of many of our members.
3. Proposed changes will come into affect in August and November, depending on which category it falls under.
4. The changes are part of a much bigger attack on migrants and migrants' rights in the UK.
5. As a consequence of the changes, 20,000 dependents of post-graduate students would not have the right to work in the UK, unless it is a 'skilled job'.
6. As a result of the changes, International students studying at FE colleges won't be able to take on any part-time work

7. Not having the right to work will contribute to exploitation and poverty amongst international FE students who are amongst the poorest of international students in the UK.
8. The new proposed changes mean that sabbatical officers who are international students have to have around £9,000 in their bank account before they can apply for a visa to start working as an officer from November this year.
9. Changes to the upfront cost of visa extensions will mean the upfront money required for those taking re-sits, medical students going on placements and PhD students extending their write-up period will be over £7000 more after November.
10. Government's extreme and unacceptable escalation of attacks on international students and the wider migrant community since 2012 has made life miserable and stressful for the hundreds of thousands of international students and other migrants in the UK.

NEC Resolves:

1. We strongly condemn the new wave of attacks on migrants and international students in particular.
2. NUS should prioritise supporting international students by allocating more resources to the international students campaign so it can effectively challenge such a toxic environment.
3. NUS to encourage the wider student population to stand in solidarity with international students when it comes to direct action.

Emergency Motion 2 | Defend and support Lewisham and Southwark College – Southern Campuses

NEC Believes:

1. Lewisham/Southwark College (LeSoCo) is a Further Education college based in the London boroughs of Lewisham and Southwark, formed in 2012 from the merging of Lewisham College and Southwark College.
2. Its students consist, for the majority, of adult learners with a high proportion of Black and working class learners. It takes the largest number of FE learners from the local Southwark area.
3. In April 2015 Lewisham/Southwark College was placed into Administered College status, enhancing the role and powers of the local FE commissioner over monitoring and review of the College.
4. On 8th July 2015 (during the last week of term for the majority of staff and with very few students still at the college for this academic year) Southwark Council released a proposal to the FE Commissioner outlining extensive changes for Lewisham/Southwark college - including to de-merge the college by the end of July 2015, closing the Southwark College sites at Waterloo and Camberwell for a year from August 2015, and to then re-open the sites in August 2016 under a new management and different structure, and possibly courses and staff.
5. Existing students will be told in August to go to other colleges to finish their courses.
6. These proposals were made without any consultation with the college staff, students, Principal or local community. Southwark Council want to commission up to 7 named providers to tender for courses - some public, some private which could lead to a fragmentation of providers and staff on different contracts with different employers.
7. On 14th July the governors of Lewisham/Southwark College met and voted in favour of closing the Camberwell site of the College by the end of July 2015 - which is used mainly for basic skills and ESOL learning provisions, has 300 students, 20 teaching staff and 6 support staff - and sell it as soon as they can for approx. £5m. The site has a waiting list of 1200 students who want to do ESOL courses and has been used as a site for education since 1871!
8. The proposed changes and closures of the college will lead to cuts in teaching staff, student places and the number and diversity of courses.

NEC Further Believes:

1. The closing of college sites need to be taken in context with a series of attacks against Lewisham and Southwark college and FE more widely, with huge funding cuts of 24% in national funding and staff redundancies levelled against the college recently - around 50 staff have taken voluntary redundancy, about

10 still face compulsory redundancy and other staff have just resigned as they are fed up with the cuts and atmosphere in the college. The trade union studies department has been recently closed down and there has been a decrease in dyslexia provision.

2. They also need to be taken in context with the attacks on local community, from gentrification to austerity to immigration raids, with the cutting of ESOL courses impacting migrants by cutting them out of education and out of society further, and with the outsourcing of provisions to private providers further diminishing the college's accountability to the community. ESOL course hours are set to be cut making it harder for students to progress.
3. Southwark council's proposal specifies a move to a more employer and corporation-led provision of learning responsive to the needs of big businesses instead of the community, and names a number of corporate bodies which they intend to work closely with in leading the changes – including city accountants PwC, and News UK (Rupert Murdoch's News International) as well as local hospitals Guys and St Thomas'. This will narrow the curriculum to a narrow vocational only kind of provision.
4. These attacks against Lewisham/Southwark College need to be fought for the sake of preserving learning provisions for the local community and to resist the corporate takeover of FE - fragmentation and possible privatisation.

NEC Resolves:

1. To support the Defend Lewisham/Southwark College campaign, and release a statement to Southwark Council demanding that all proposals to close the Southwark sites should be stopped with immediate effect, and for an extensive consultation process with students, staff and local residents of the boroughs.
2. To further demand an end to all closures, redundancies and cuts to courses and staff.
3. Demand to keep and extend ESOL provisions.
4. For the governors of Lewisham/Southwark college to meet as soon as possible and reverse the decision to close the Camberwell site.
5. To send a delegation of students, staff and members of the community campaign to meet with the FE Commissioner, Southwark Council, Lewisham Council, and the chair of governors and Principal of Lewisham/Southwark college as soon as possible.
6. Support any further direct action called by staff and students from the college and members of the local community against the proposals.

Meeting 2: 10 September 2015

Motion 9 | National day of walk-out

NEC believes:

1. International students have been under constant attack by the Home Office for a number of years.
2. These attacks have intensified since 2012 with the revocation of the 'Highly Trusted Sponsorship' of London Metropolitan University.
3. Other universities and colleges have also lost their sponsorship status since.

NEC further believes:

1. The onslaught on international students' rights in the UK is not an isolated matter and is part of a bigger picture of the anti-migrant sentiment which is growing in the UK.
2. As a progressive movement, it is our responsibility to stand in solidarity with all migrants and condemn how they are treated in this country.

NEC Resolves:

1. NUS should prioritise the plight of migrants in general and that of international students in particular in its campaigning activities.

2. NUS to fully support, endorse and encourage a national day of walk out on 'International Students' Day', November 17th. This would be to raise awareness regarding the treatment of international students and the wider migrant communities in the UK.
3. This would be a one-day walkout.
4. NUS to utilise every possible tool to get as many unions as possible on board with the national day of action.

Motion 1 | Small and Specialist Student Unions

NEC Believes:

1. In 2013 a Small and Specialist training day was hosted for the first time and did not charge Student Unions to attend.
2. In 2014 a Small and Specialist training day was hosted with a charge of £50 per officer.
3. In 2015 there was no Small and Specialist training day, instead Small and Specialist was integrated with Lead and Change: Presidents at a cost of £199 per officer.
4. Officers from Small and Specialist Students Unions appreciated the opportunity to network with other unions during summer training.
5. Officers from Small and Specialist Students Unions require more advice on how to run a Students Union than that offered at Lead and Change: Presidents
6. Officers from Small and Specialist Students Unions should have an opportunity to network and learn about how to run a Students Union.
7. Officers from Small and Specialist Students Unions should have easy access to free information and advice on how to run a Students Union.
8. Officers from Small and Specialist Students Unions should be supported by NUS during the handover period.
9. Officers from Small and Specialist Students Union should continue to be given opportunities to network with officers from other Students Unions.

NEC Resolves:

1. NUS should host a training day for officers from Small and Specialist Students Unions, free of charge.
2. NUS should provide a contact specifically for Small and Specialist Students Unions for information, advice and support.
3. NUS should provide a Handover Toolkit for Small and Specialist Students Unions.

Motion 2 | Stop the repayment hikes

NEC Believes:

1. In 2010 when the Tories and Lib Dems were selling their new tuition fee policy, a key promise was that the system would supposedly protect low earners by only requiring repayments on income above £21,000 – with that threshold kept the same in real terms by increasing it in line with average incomes.
2. Since 2010, forecasts have repeatedly predicted that more and more of the debt from loans won't be repaid, nearly to the point where the new system saves no more money than the previous one – but the Tories were still saying it was "robustly sustainable".
3. Since the election, the government has admitted that the system is "unaffordable", and has launched a consultation on a proposal to force an increase in repayments.
4. The policy plans to freeze the repayment threshold at £21,000 for 5 years. In real terms, this means reducing the repayment threshold, as inflation erodes the value of graduate incomes but the threshold fails to keep pace. Repayments will be higher and lower-waged graduates who would not have made repayments will now have to. A review is promised in 2021, but there is no guarantee that uprating would resume, and even if it did, repayments would remain higher than if the freeze had never occurred.

5. The government favours implementing this hike on the repayments of everyone who began studying since 2012 – so it will not just affect new students, but change the terms for students and graduates who already took out loans.
6. This will mainly affect loans for undergraduate study, but holders of 24+ Advanced Learning Loans in FE will also be affected.
7. Analyst Andrew McGettigan estimates that 2 million borrowers will be affected.
8. The government's own figures show that the changes will increase total repayments more for low- to middle-earners, while the highest earners will even have their eventual total repayments reduced!
9. The government expects to make £3.2 billion in additional repayments from existing borrowers alone through the retroactive change, and even more from new starters.
10. This policy is being consulted on until 14 October.

NEC Further Believes:

1. This policy is grossly unjust.
2. For existing borrowers, this change is a betrayal of the terms we had no choice but to sign up to if we wanted to access education.
3. The changes are regressive, hitting low and middle earners harder.
4. The government sold its original policy on a miscalculation – this was either their own incompetence or a deliberate lie. And now repayments are lower than they projected because of the Tories' low-wage austerity economy – but it is us being made to pay the price.
5. The retroactive changes set a precedent that students and graduates are a piggy bank that the government can raid whenever it feels short on cash.
6. We should respond to the consultation and lobby the government, but we should not wait for the consultation to be over, when it may be too late, to use protest and direct action.

NEC Resolves:

1. To mandate the VPHE and VPFE to lead a campaign against the loan repayment hikes, under the slogans "Stop the Repayment Hikes" and "#StopTheHike"
2. The campaign should demand that rather than asking lower-waged students and graduates to pay the price, the government should tax the rich and their businesses, who can afford it. And instead of tinkering with the broken fee system, they should scrap it and implement free, decently-funded further and higher education.
3. This campaign must unite current and future loan-holders by opposing repayment hikes for both groups. NUS must not propose, accept or endorse any proposal to sell out one group, for instance averting hikes on existing students and graduates by accepting hikes for future students.
4. To help explain the policy and its implications, which may be complicated to understand, to student unions, students and the wider public.
5. To respond to the consultation by demanding that the repayment threshold is not frozen and repayments are not increased, and to encourage member unions to do the same.
6. To explore the possibility of a legal challenge to the policy, which the President of HEPI has speculated could be successful.
7. To draw public attention to the injustice of the policy, and in particular to reach out to recent leavers from education who may be affected as well as current students.
8. To organise protest and direct action against the policy, targeting the government and the governing party, beginning as soon as possible and certainly before the end of the consultation period, and to support protests and direct actions carried out by students.

Motion 3 | Stop marketising our education: stop the Teaching "Excellence" Framework!

NEC Believes:

1. The Conservative government is building a “Teaching Excellence Framework”, which they claim will measure teaching quality in HE and incentivise universities to improve by making them compete in rankings.
2. The Tories have floated the possibility that incentives could include allowing top-ranking universities to further increase fees.
3. The policy remains quite vague, but we know:
 - a. “Outcome-focused metrics” are to play a large part, and all indications are that this means scoring teaching according to graduate salaries.
 - b. The government wants to incentivise universities to tailor teaching more to the demands of employers.
 - c. The government believes that “competition will also be central to our efforts to drive up standards”

NEC Further Believes:

1. The TEF claims to be about driving up teaching standards, but in reality it is not about empowering students – it is about marketising education and subjecting it to the interests of business. At best it treats students as consumers, and at worst as products, to be shaped according to the demands of employers.
2. The TEF follows in the footsteps of the Research Excellence Framework. This metric-based system doesn’t improve research – it squashes original exploration and academic freedom, forces researchers to dance to the tune of industry, and imposes an expensive and burdensome bureaucracy.
3. A good teacher isn’t just a career coach whose success is measured by your paycheque, but someone who inspires you, enhances your critical thinking and challenges and helps you to explore.
4. Teaching quality and later income aren’t straightforwardly linked. This penalises subjects where students go on to take lower-paying but socially useful jobs, and universities that take on more women, black and working-class-background students, who will earn less on average regardless of their education.
5. As they try to improve their metrics in a competitive market, universities will come down hard on teaching staff, bullying them to work harder for less money, and clamping down on teaching that doesn’t fulfil the government’s narrow agenda. Casualised staff – including postgrads who teach, and disproportionately women and black academics – will be hit hardest. We don’t want a “customer/service provider” relationship with them but one of solidarity and partnership.
6. Our efforts to liberate our curricula will be set back – business and employers have no interest in having us learn and develop alternative and subversive ideas.
7. The TEF isn’t just superficially flawed but wrong at its core. It cannot be fixed, it must be stopped. To improve teaching, we stand for an alternative to markets, competition and metrics.

NEC Resolves:

1. To take the position that the TEF is not just superficially flawed but wrong to the core, and we can’t just tinker with it, we have to stop it.

Motion 4 | Training for Officers on Apprentice Engagement

NEC Believes:

1. NUS hosts a training course for student officers from Further Education over summer called FE Leaders
2. FE Leaders did not include information on Apprenticeships, or how to engage with the 440,000 Apprentices in the UK
3. There are a small amount of Apprentices from Affiliates involved in the National Society of Apprentices
4. Apprenticeships and the National Society of Apprentices should continue to be a national priority for NUS and Students’ Unions
5. Students’ Unions who have members who are apprentices should be supported by NUS to engage with Apprentices in their democratic structures

NEC Resolves:

1. That FE Leaders to include workshop/training for officers on Apprentices engagement and key issues

2. To mandate Vice-President Union Development and Vice-President Further Education to work with FE Students' Unions to enable them to engage Apprentices in their democratic structures.

Motion 5 | Mobilising students to join TUC national demo outside Tory Party Conference

NEC Believes:

1. On Sunday 4 October the Trades Union Congress (TUC) is organising a national demonstration against the government's austerity agenda and attacks on trade unions outside the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester.
2. This protest has the potential to be hundreds of thousands strong.
3. NUS recently signed a 'campaigning partnership' with the TUC and has the potential to mobilise massive numbers for a student presence, calling for an end to the proposals to cut maintenance grants, among other demands.

NEC Resolves:

1. For NUS to endorse and support the TUC's national demonstration against austerity on Sunday 4 October outside Tory Party Conference in Manchester.
2. To contact every Students' Union informing them of their nearest coach to the demonstration, and encouraging them to book their own.
3. To use NUS' website and social media to promote the demonstration.
4. To emphasise on the #CutTheCosts local lobby day on September 18 that this is the 'next step' in the campaign to save maintenance grants.

Motion 6 | A student strike in Britain?

NEC Believes:

1. This autumn will see a new wave of protests and direct action over the cuts to maintenance grants, and attacks on our education system more generally.
2. We need a diversity of tactics in that fight - and new and creative ways to mobilise our members.
3. A national demonstration, such as the NCAFC demonstration on the 4th November, cannot be the beginning or end of any period of mobilisation; ideally, we would want more and bigger actions to follow it.
4. The NUS Rules contain provisions to call a national ballot on any given issue which has not already been settled by national conference. Under these provisions (laid out in Article 41 and Rule 1100):
 - a. A national ballot can be called by a two thirds majority of the NEC, or on the request of 5% of NUS's Constituent Members. (Rules 1101 and 1102)
 - b. Within 3 days of the ballot being requested, the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) ascertains the purpose of the ballot, and within 7 days determines the question that will appear on the ballot paper. The CRO then draws up a timetable for the ballot, with voting beginning as soon as possible. (Rules 1103, 1105 & 1111)
 - c. A vote is then held in all CMs at their 'sovereign policy making body' – defined as "the body with the highest authority [...] about the democratic determination of policy statements" in that union. (Article 41.2 & 143.54) • Each CM casts its student numbers one way or the other, and cannot split its votes. (Rules 1114 & 1115)
5. At present, there is an organised attempt to call a national ballot for a national student strike late in the autumn term over the maintenance grant cuts and student support in HE and FE. In order for the NEC to discuss this eventuality, we need to discuss our position now.

NEC Further Believes:

1. Across the world, student movements have won on the basis of calling formal student strikes - most notably in Quebec and Chile.
2. There are many questions over what a 'student strike' really involves, given that most of us cannot meaningfully or traditionally withdraw our labour from our schools, colleges and universities. It is clear, however, that students have the ability to cause strike-like disruption and make a serious stand in the course of a "strike".
3. NUS has called very large and effective student strikes in the past, including over cuts to grants.

NEC Resolves:

1. To actively investigate the possibility of a student strike in Britain.
2. Because a national ballot has never been used before, and because calling one centrally from the NEC might be seen as an imposition by some CMs, we will not call a ballot centrally on this occasion. However, if a ballot is triggered along the lines of what has been set out above, we will support it, and will recommend a Yes vote for national action over maintenance grants and student support.
3. To instruct NUS officers to prepare the logistical and procedural operation for a national ballot so that the balloting process could be concluded by the end of November at the latest.
4. To mandate NUS officers to undertake further preparations for the ballot and any potential strike, including working out a range of accessible ways to take part in any action, and supporting and advising the broad demographic of students – including international students, students who teach, and apprentices.
5. If and when a ballot is initiated, to instruct NUS officers to widely publicise its occurrence beyond the student movement: to issue press releases advertising the fact that we are balloting for a national strike, and to seek the support of trade unions.
6. If and when a ballot is initiated, to instruct NUS officers write formally to the relevant UK Government ministers, advising them that we are balloting for a national strike, and demanding negotiations over the maintenance grant cut and student support more generally.

Motion 7 | London Mayoral Election

NEC Believes:

1. Every region has a right to funding and some form of representation.
2. That London has the largest concentration of HE and FE institutions in the country.
3. That the Greater London Assembly has the powers over transport, policing, housing and economic development.
4. That the London Mayoral Election takes place on 5th May 2016 can be a good opportunity for NUS London to campaign on the issues that matter to them
5. That NUS London is the only form of pan-London representation that exists for students in London
6. That this motion was written in conjunction with the current NUS London committee.
7. There are proportionately more Black and International students in London than in any other part of the UK
8. London is home to one of the world's most violent and racist police forces
9. Rents are higher, the rate of revenge evictions is higher and a travel card (with a student discount) averages over £100 pounds a month in London.
10. Having made no effort to help stop the closure of the University Of London Union (ULU), NEC last year set up NUS London but gave no guidance on what support would be offered.
11. The current Conservative Mayor has had a negative impact on many aspects of student's lives.
12. There is scope for students in London having a big impact on the result of the Assembly elections in May 2016 and NUS should support their efforts.

NEC Resolves:

1. For NUS to commit resources in helping organise the NUS London Conference with the current NUS London committee which takes place in October at Goldsmiths.
2. For NUS to commit resources and funds to NUS London in assisting any campaign it wishes to run in the lead up to the London Mayoral election.

3. To support NUS London's priority campaign for the Assembly elections and to help finance it from the relevant Vice President's budget
4. To help organise a student Mayoral hustings

Motion 8 | #CutTheCrap

NEC Believes:

1. That the naming and branding of each NUS campaign should clearly convey its aim and purpose
2. That the NUS must use its platform to help frame the political debate on issues that concern its members
3. That it is crucial the NUS is clear on the political standpoint and content of each of its campaigns
4. That the naming and branding of each major NUS campaign should be debated and voted on by the NEC or the relevant elected body such as the concerned Nation, Section or Liberation Committee
5. When campaigning against the scrapping of grants the NUS must be clear on our position
6. The broader #CutTheCosts campaign and slogan fails to communicate a clear political message and isn't adequate when campaigning for grants to be kept at current levels.
7. Slogans are more than just marketing – they are politically important. They (should) frame the problems we are fighting and the solutions we want to point towards.
8. Therefore slogans should be democratically developed where possible, and accountable

NEC Further believes:

1. Weak, incoherent slogans, chosen more for their snappiness than their political content, contribute to the failure of events and campaigns - for instance, the "Educate Employ Empower" slogan used for NUS's 2012 demo, which meant nothing, failed to convey what we were marching for, and therefore failed to resonate with either the students we wanted to attend the march, or any wider audience.

NEC Resolves:

1. To ensure that in future each NUS Campaign is named and branded in a manner that clearly conveys its aims, purpose and political standpoint
2. To ensure there is debate within the relevant elected body and a vote to sign off the chosen name and branding of each campaign before it is launched
3. When referring to grants to use the slogan #GrantsNotDebt instead of or alongside the #CutTheCosts slogan.
4. The slogans associated with NUS campaigns should, as far as possible, identify the problem we want to tackle and point towards our positive solutions, in line with our democratic policies.
5. Where possible within the timescales of campaigns and the events they are responding to, campaign strategies and slogans should be decided through relevant democratic processes in NUS (National Conference; NEC; liberation, section and nation committees)

Emergency Motion 1 | #RefugeesWelcomeHere

NEC Believes:

1. Since March 2011, an estimated 9 million Syrians have fled their homes to take refuge as internally displaced or in neighbouring countries (over 3 mill). These numbers are constantly increasing.
2. 150,000 Syrians have declared asylum within the EU, and members have pledged to resettle a further 33,000 places. 85% of these have been pledged by Germany.
3. The United Kingdom has received just over 7,000 applications for asylum from Syrian nationals, significantly fewer than European partners like Austria (18,647) and Sweden (64,685). According to Eurostat, there were around 29,100 Syrians seeking asylum for the first time in Europe in the first three months of 2015.
4. The refugee crisis has developed further as Syrians make up on average almost one out of every four refugees in the world.
5. On the 2nd of September 2015, the news of a 3-year old Syrian child found dead on a Turkish shore whilst trying to reach safety was the latest in a series of reports on the deaths of thousands of refugees fleeing oppression and war.

6. The UNHCR's call for a further 130,000 resettlement spots in the EU has thus far seen little enthusiastic response. Of all countries in the EU accepting refugees, the UK has resettled the lowest number.
7. Neighbouring countries around Syria have absorbed the majority of the refugee influx, the EU is only seeing a fraction.
8. The Gateway Protection Programme is a scheme by the British government, co-funded by the EU and in partnership with the UNHCR, to resettle a quota of 750 refugees per year in the UK.
9. There are eighteen local authorities who currently participate, with eight in the North West and three in Yorkshire and the Humber.
10. There have been calls from the Refugee Council to offer humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees aside from the Gateway quota, "to ensure that resettlement opportunities continue to be available to refugees from the rest of the world".
11. Under pressure from international media attention, the British government has increased the number of refugees it will accept to 20,000 over the next five years.

NEC Further Believes:

1. In the current context, quotas are arbitrary numbers that don't reflect the scale of the refugee crisis.
2. Increasing the number of refugee re-settlements from Syria should not be at the expense of greater restrictions on the ability of people from other countries to claim asylum in the UK.
3. Accepting 4000 Syrian refugees a year is unacceptable, while Germany has announced it will be taking in 500,000 annually.
4. There has been a petition lobbying David Cameron to take action which has received over 200,000 signatures
5. The UK has a moral obligation to help those fleeing conflict and violence by providing a place for refuge.
6. NUS, Students Unions and institutions are in prime position to offer practical support for refugees already in the country, and to add the voice of 7 million students to the call for the UK to take up its share of the responsibility.
7. A press statement has come from the Petitions Committee stating that because "the House of Commons has already had several opportunities to debate this issue, the Committee decided that the time was not right for another debate on the same issue."
8. That a further debate should go forward in the House of Commons, to resolve how the UK plays its vital part.

NEC Resolves:

1. For the National President to write to the Prime minister to call on the UK to accept more refugees and for NUS to publish a statement in support of the UK accepting more refugees.
2. To strongly challenge existing Home Office policies regarding asylum seekers, including the decision to deport child refugees once they turn 18, and not allowing those awaiting asylum decisions to access tertiary education.
3. To adopt the work that the NUS International Students Campaign has begun with STAR to raise awareness on discriminatory Home Office policies.
4. To encourage Student Unions to host donation centres for refugees currently living in desperate conditions in Calais, as Kings, LSE, Bradford, Edinburgh University, Ayrshire college and other unions have done.
5. To create a template letter to be issued to CMs to enable them to lobby their MP and local councils on the issue, and encouraging them to take action including local demonstrations that are taking place on the 12th of September.
6. To encourage SU's to build links with groups such as the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum and Citizens UK (if they don't already exist), as Middlesex have done, to amplify the call for increasing the number of resettlements and increasing the number of local Councils involved in such schemes.

7. To launch a national lobby of institutions (universities and colleges) to provide open classes and lectures (i.e. English language support) for refugees who wish to access educational facilities, as well as facilitating social learning in community environments to welcome refugees and help them access public services. In addition to this, to support the Citizens UK campaign to call on all British universities to offer ten studentships or bursaries to resettled refugees, and the International Students Campaign's scholarship plans, so they can continue their education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
8. To encourage SU's to partner with local charities and organisations working on housing and hosting projects, as listed on the No Accommodation network (<http://nacom.org.uk/agencies>).
9. To oppose and condemn the demonization of innocent refugees coming here for shelter, and ensure the debate around the crisis is not neglected once mainstream media coverage ceases.

Emergency Motion 2 | Support the Open Dover, Open Europe Demos

NEC Notes:

1. The deaths of migrants crossing the Mediterranean: 2,700 so far this year, according to UNHCR
2. The appalling conditions of the lives of migrants in the camps around Calais, and the danger of death and injury they face in their journeys across Europe and the Channel
3. There will be simultaneous Open Border demonstrations in Dover and Calais on 17th October in solidarity with migrants under the title Open Dover, Open Europe.
4. That these demonstrations have been called by the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC) and NCAFC are organising the Dover demonstration and French groups are organising the Calais demonstration.

NEC Believes:

1. That Europe is a rich continent and has the resources to ensure a good life for everyone – migrant and local, black and white.
2. That the death, misery and waste of human potential could be ended if Europe opened its borders and let people enter safely and live here in dignity.
3. That the inhabitants of the Calais camps should be allowed into Britain.
4. That anti-migrant agitation is a form of racism.
5. That no human is illegal.
6. That the treatment of and mainstream political and media discourse around Asylum seekers and migrants is unacceptable.
7. That we must reframe the debate and actively show solidarity with migrants.

NEC Resolves:

1. To endorse the "Open Dover; Open Europe" demonstrations.
2. To promote the demo among its members and on social media and encourage CMs to do the same.
3. To contribute £1000 to Calais Migrant Solidarity to pay for aid and contribute £600 to NCAFC to assist with the organisation of the demonstration

Meeting 3: 2 December 2015

Emergency Motion 1 | Don't Bomb Syria

NEC believes:

1. David Cameron will stage a Commons vote on Wednesday on whether to extend UK airstrikes against 'Islamic State'/ISIS targets in Syria.
2. RAF crews could be bombing Syria by the end of the week

NEC further believes:

3. British military interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya have left those countries in situations much worse than before the interventions.
4. The ongoing bombing of areas controlled by 'ISIS' by a range of countries, has led to many civilian deaths.
5. The political and social instability fomented by these military campaigns has led to the rise of groups like ISIS, and will further perpetuate a climate in which they, and mass political violence, can thrive.
6. There is no transparency regarding any long-term political or military strategy by this government concerning Syria as Britain is opposed to most players engaged in the complicated conflict.
7. Western military interventions have continually betrayed ulterior motives by these governments, as can also be expected of this move by the government to bomb Syria.
8. Bombing Syria is another clear case of the government prioritising warfare over welfare.
9. During the 2013 Commons vote NEC voted to adopt a stance of having 'no position' on British military intervention against Syria.
10. Such a position is untenable given the impact such a move would have on the political and social situation in the UK and on our membership, particularly international students and refugees.

NEC Resolves:

1. To release a statement with immediate effect including the above, opposing the UK joining in with the bombing of Syria.

Emergency Motion 2 | Support Adil Waraich

NEC believes:

1. De Montfort University made David Cameron a Companion of the university in August 2015 in recognition of his work on equal marriage.
2. A Companionship is DMU's highest honour

NEC further believes:

1. Adil Waraich is the elected president of De Montfort Students' Union.
2. Adil started a campaign alongside other students at DMU in response to the award.
3. This campaign questioned Cameron's record on equality.
4. The campaign included producing a video, in which Adil appeared.
5. The video criticised the decision to award David Cameron a Companionship.
6. Students from DMU, including those from the LGBT society and their LGBT rep also appeared in the video, alongside various NUS Full Time Officers.
7. These students were all exercising their democratic right to peaceful protest.
8. The University wrote to an external trustee at De Montfort Students' Union to express their concern with Adil's involvement in the video.
9. Adil has been suspended from his position for over two months, following a decision by an external trustee of his students' union, which cites the video as a reason for his suspension.
10. This is an affront to the autonomy of student officers, an attack on student unions, and at odds with our right to engage in peaceful protest.
11. NUS has policy (NC_SC_14510 - Defend Our Right to Resist) to provide students "with legal advice and [to create] a legal fund to support students facing charges or legal costs as a result of repression."

NEC Resolves:

1. To mandate the NUS UK FTOs to collectively write to DMU expressing our collective concerns on this issue.
2. To support the work of students at DMU in campaigning for Adil's reinstatement

3. To investigate the legal basis under which managements at HE and FE institutions can pressure unions into restricting the political work of officers.
4. To financially assist Adil in meeting the cost of submitting a claim at the employment tribunal, as mandated by National Conference policy to support victimised students with legal support.
5. To support Adil publicly in his efforts to be reinstated, including the use of NUS resources, press office and social media.
6. To mandate NUS to conduct research on the role of external trustees in restricting the work of democratically elected student union officers.

Motion 7 | Red Card to the Green Paper

NEC Believes:

1. The BIS consultation document *fulfilling our potential: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice*, also known as the HE Green Paper constitutes the biggest changes to English HE since 1992, with proposals seeking to further entrench the marketisation of the sector. From who is accessing HE institutions, to what is happening in the classrooms, to the funding our courses - this document touches on all fundamental aspects of HE.
2. Students and our movement are committed to supporting and developing excellent teaching with our fellow staff, working together to create the best quality education and learning environments for students at all institutions. The marketisation agenda and its logic of increased competition as a driver for enhancement, which is embedded through a teaching excellence framework fundamentally undermines its own purpose. Instead it will achieve 'excellence' only for those students able to pay a higher price and course closures and underfunded universities for the rest of us.
3. The proposals around the TEF not only allow fee increases but will also create differentiated fees that bear no relation to the quality of provision and education. Regardless of the look of the TEF in practice, the pressures of market competition and cuts to the teaching grant will make institutions focus on short-term decisions which often involve finding ways of cutting corners and gaming the system, taking the steps needed to raise fees, not the steps needed to increase quality.
4. Many aspects of the Green Paper will be likely to require approval from parliament - such as raising tuition fees - and be firmed up with a subsequent White Paper.
5. Many other proposals will not require a vote with decisions and actions made by the Secretary of State for Universities and Sciences on the basis of the consultation.
6. Therefore a wide range of tactics need to be employed in our response to the proposals so that no opportunity to challenge the proposals is missed and we cover the multiple issues present in the Green Paper.
7. While this is a Westminster government consultation on English HE, it is likely that many aspects of the reforms will affect students in the other three nations of the UK. The delivery of education will change for everyone as a result of the Green paper proposals and there will be a knock on impact on the shape of education in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We know this is the case for Research Councils and research funding policy.
8. Page 15 of the Green Paper highlights a lack of evidence in the Government's equality impact assessment: 'We do not have specific evidence relating to gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation and religion or belief. We would welcome additional evidence from respondents to develop the evidence base further.'
9. The HE green paper has posed questions around the transparency and accountability of Students' Unions, using language that echoes the recent trade union bill- demonstrating a wider political challenge to the principals of collective action.
10. Students' Unions are the members of NUS
11. The last Conservative government attempted to change the membership of Students' Unions to 'opt in' membership.
12. The 23rd November was '#LoveSUs' day, that saw SUs, student movement alumni, community groups and organisations from across the HE and FE sector come together to promote the value of SUs.

NEC Further Believes:

1. Education should be free. Our belief in free education is not just about removing tuition fees, but also fighting for students' ability to thrive in academic environments and support themselves, and for a liberated education system that works for all, not just for the privileged few.
2. NUS is here to ensure all students have access to quality teaching. However, competition doesn't drive quality, as the fees regime failed to raise standards as was promised. The current proposed reforms are a clear way of creating a false market: they're trying to fix the mistakes they've created in the first instance and justify cuts to public funding by pushing the burden of the cost onto the individual, and forcing our institutions to needlessly compete instead of collaborate.
3. Higher fees disproportionately affect certain groups of students, particularly students defining into liberation groups. Soaring levels of debt disproportionately affect those from underprivileged backgrounds and loan repayments have unequal impacts. A Sutton Trust report from Sept 2015 warns that students from the poorest backgrounds could see their debts soar to more than £50,000. The study puts the male-female annual earnings gap 10 years after graduation at around 23%, which means women will suffer more than men because they will spend longer paying their loans back. HEFCE report on graduate outcomes highlights that BME graduates will be disproportionately affected by student loan repayments given their lower career progression and earnings. The NUS 'Debt in the first degree' report shows 45% of graduates on the £9k fee regime are worried that their standard of living will be affected by loan repayments. 33% BME graduates view student loan on a par with commercial loans and mature students are deterred from HE by the cost and prospective debt they could incur.
4. The Green Paper can't be read in isolation from Disabled Students Allowance cuts, maintenance grants turned into loans, or retrospective loan repayment changes to terms & conditions meaning graduates will have to pay more back each month. 9
5. Improving access to HE requires focus on lifelong learning and part-time study as participation rates for mature and part-time students have declined substantially since the increase in tuition fees; the paper is lacking any mentions to address access for these groups, which exposes the paper and the TEF for what they are.
6. Students' Unions are organisations founded on the principles of democracy and collectivism.
7. That Students' Unions existence and autonomy should be protected.
8. That Students' Unions can be proud of the great strides they have taken to innovate around democratic participation, to be well governed organisations and to show their value and impact to their members and to wider society.
9. That Students' Unions provide a massive positive impact on individuals, the education sector and wider society, as exemplified by #LOVESUs day.

NEC Resolves:

1. To adopt the following strategy:
2. To support SUs to respond to the Green Paper in full and in lobbying their VCs to include our concerns in university responses, especially on the students' union question, with a view to standing up together for the future of HE and SUs.
3. To roll out the 'Quality Doesn't Grow on Fees' campaign, working with and supporting SUs in mobilising their members in resisting the harmful changes proposed in the Green Paper - through accessible information on proposals, campaigning materials, campaign guides, advice and support on linking with academics and local trade union branches.
4. To let Jo Johnson know exactly how we feel during *and* after the consultation closes by organising creative direct action as part of the national Quality Doesn't Grow On Fees campaign and equipping SUs to mobilise on the ground and involve student groups and reps with the proposals, to hold creative stunts and direct action, as well as run campaigns and actions focusing on Widening Participation & liberation groups.
5. To work with SUs, student reps, activists and academics on how to support and develop excellent learning in our institutions, showing our commitment to enhancement and partnership and our alternative to the market.

6. To mobilise students and co-ordinate high level mass national action against a rise in tuition fees, holding decision-makers to account.
7. Not to wait until a parliamentary vote to organise mass national action, or make such action too contingent on a rise in fees. We will begin the work of opposing the Green Paper and the cuts and measures associated with it as a whole, and as quickly as possible in Term 2.
8. To continue the #LoveSUs campaign to provide a robust response to the questions posed on Students' Unions and to continue to fight for Students' unions autonomy.
9. To build a coalition of supporters across the political spectrum, sections of media and wider society
10. To use the platforms we have to articulate the work that Students' Unions do and why we should defend them
11. To create an impact report which details the support that Students' Unions deliver to students and the impact they have

Motion 9 | Counter-extremism

NEC Believes:

1. The Prevent Duty of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 has taken effect since September 2015.
2. Since then, many of our greatest fears and suspicions with the Duty have been confirmed, and we have received a steady stream of cases of students being referred to Channel/PREVENT
3. Over half of referrals to Channel are now for school-age children, and there were more referrals within the first 5 months of 2015 than for the whole of 2014, or any year since its introduction.
4. This indicates educators and practitioners becoming more 'trigger-happy' with referrals under the new laws and the prevailing climate of fear and confusion surrounding the laws, all with deeply damaging effects on children.
5. The Students not Suspects tour brought together students alongside academics in opposition to PREVENT and showed an appetite for action against it although not always clear direction as to how to do so.
6. The new Counter-Extremism Bill proposed by the government and their new Counter-Extremism Strategy show the government seeking to push further with their agenda, with possible new powers for Ofcom to regulate 'extremist' broadcast material, extremism disruption orders, a new 'de-radicalisation' programme.
7. As always, Muslims and Black people will be the primary victim of these measures.

NEC Further Believes:

1. Incidents like the recent events in Paris are always used by the government to support and force through 'anti extremism' legislation at the expense of civil liberties
2. It is critical at this time for NUS to stand firm by its opposition to PREVENT, and Counter-extremism measures introduced by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act – NUS are seen as leading figures in the campaign against PREVENT and cannot afford to capitulate to the government under pressure.
3. The campaign against PREVENT has taken root more within affected communities and a wider range of organisations than before - for example in the case of the 'Together Against Prevent' initiative (<http://togetheragainstoprevent.org/>)
4. Islamophobia is further perpetuated and heightened in this climate as well, and 'reprisal' attacks against Muslims have already sharply increased since Paris, and have been at high rates recently besides.
5. November has been marked as Islamophobia Awareness Month since 2012, initiated by a range of organisations

NEC Resolves:

1. To work alongside the Black Students' Officer in calling for and organising a range of actions against the Prevent duty, from direct actions by membership in the new year to possible legal action.
2. For these to be communicated to membership regularly through NUS channels including the Connect website and membership emails
3. To work alongside Bindmans LLP in developing legal advice for SUs on the Prevent duty and formulating possible legal action against it and the government.
4. To develop guidance alongside the Black Students' Officer on SUs dealing with the Charity Commission and accusations of 'extremism'
5. To sign up NUS as a signatory/supporter to the 'Together Against Prevent' statement and initiative, and expand our range of partners in campaigning in opposition to PREVENT
6. To be prepared to respond to the Counter-extremism Bill with strong opposition to any measures that curtail civil liberties and perpetuate the flawed model of 'extremism' used by PREVENT
7. To support Islamophobia Awareness Month as an annual initiative

Motion 13 | #Saveourcolleges- Interim response to Area Review of post-16 education and training

NEC Believes:

1. The Government's ongoing 'Area Reviews' of post-16 education and training in England.
2. The Government's stated aim of "larger, more efficient, more resilient providers" of further education, and the push towards merging colleges.
3. The outrageous and disproportionate cuts to further education colleges and sixth form colleges since 2010, as well as the cuts to Education Maintenance Allowance.
4. Warnings that up to 4 in 10 colleges could close if plans for further cuts go ahead.
5. That the reviews are already taking place in 7 regions of England.
6. Recent regionalisation of colleges in Scotland and Wales.
7. That Sixth Form Colleges are at particular risk of closure or merger during area reviews.
8. The Sixth Form Colleges Association's (SFCA) warning that a third of sixth-forms may become financially unviable.
9. A National Union of Teachers (NUT) survey in early 2015 showed that since 2010-11, 78% of colleges had cut the number of A-level courses available and 77% had increased A-level group sizes.
10. Further NUT research has shown that, this September, 81% of sixth-form colleges have reduced the curriculum even more and 68% have increased class sizes further.
11. That the Further Education Zone Committee will present a full policy position on Area Reviews to National Conference, but that reviews are progressing so quickly that an interim policy is required.

NEC Further Believes:

1. Continued cuts to further education are a national scandal.
2. Our Sixth Form Colleges are faced with a crisis, and Area Reviews are another means to cut funding, force redundancies and limit options for 16-19 year olds.
3. College mergers and narrowed curriculums are only becoming necessary because of cuts to public funding.
4. The Government's approach to area reviews is rushed, reckless, and is not in the interests of learners.
5. The area reviews do not account for learner voice or students' needs, and are too focused towards satisfying the needs to employers. We cannot allow for-profit providers to take over our education sector.
6. There is no evidence that larger and more specialised providers are more cost-efficient than local general FE providers. Evidence from Scotland and Wales has shown that merging colleges has not saved money, and has only led to further cuts to budgets, teaching and student places.
7. Apprenticeships are often fantastic, but that they are not growing quickly enough to offer all students an alternative to college.
8. That regionalised colleges with fewer campuses will increase travel-to-learn distances and costs for many learners, and restrict access to learning for many.
9. That further education and sixth-form colleges provide education for a massive range and diversity of learners, and are intrinsic parts of local communities. Small communities need local colleges to maintain their local identity.
10. It is unacceptable and unsustainable for the Government to expect colleges to pay for student learning costs by selling off their estates and assets.

NEC Resolves:

1. To continue to condemn and call for a halt to the onslaught of cuts to further education and sixth forms.
2. To support the NUT's call on the Secretary of State for Education to reverse the Government's decision on Area Based Reviews of Sixth Form College 16-19 Education.

3. To endorse the #SaveOurColleges campaign, and any upcoming actions to campaign against more cuts and mergers.
4. To circulate details about the campaign to the wider NUS membership, including the petition and upcoming lobby days.
5. To closely monitor the outcomes of the first wave of area reviews, prior to National Conference, in order to learn lessons for future reviews.
6. To make FE students aware of what is happening and the risks to their local colleges, and to enable students to advocate independently for their colleges.
7. For the Further Education Zone Committee to further develop and plan policy and campaigning in greater depth, to be presented to National Conference.
8. For the Further Education Zone Committee to further develop policy for Free Education in FE, to be presented to National Conference.
9. To develop and present a new national framework for students' unions and learner voice in FE, post-area reviews, modelled on the Framework for College Student Associations in Scotland.

Motion 1 | F**K Funding Factions

NEC Believes:

1. That at two NECs this year, NEC voted to give £4000 and £600 to the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC) to support campaign activity.
2. The Students' Unions who contribute financially to NUS deserve to know where every penny they give to the National Union goes and that none of it is used to finance internal political campaigns or political candidates in elections.

Motion 2 | Automatic Voter Registration

NEC Believes:

1. That the government changed the way students registered to vote, moving from mass, automatic voter registration to individual registration in 2013.
2. Young people and students are disproportionately hit by this change, with institutions no longer able to register entire halls of residence.
3. 30% of people aged 18-24 are not registered to vote, compared with 16% of the population as a whole
4. At the University of Sheffield, student enrolment and voter registration were integrated, resulting in 64% of students being registered – a far higher figure than in other institutions that did not have an integrated registration system¹.
5. That the upcoming Boundary Review risks students being disenfranchised.
6. The upcoming referendum on the UK's membership is likely to happen this academic year, with a huge risk that students will again be disenfranchised if swift action is not taken.
7. That universities have a duty to do as much as they can to register students to vote, and that a proven way of delivering this is through integrated registration during enrolment.

NEC Resolves:

1. To write to every CM with guidance regarding automatic voter registration and encouraging CMs to lobby their institutions to implement it.
2. To lobby Universities UK and other sector bodies to encourage their members to implement automatic voter registration.

NEC Further Believes:

1. A lack of understanding and education as to the structure and importance of devolution means the engagement of students in the devolved assembly/parliamentary elections is often low, despite those governments having the greatest impact on their day to day life.
2. Historically, those who disengage from the democratic process find themselves unrepresented in government priorities, and disproportionately hit by funding cuts.
3. After the general election, it will be vital that momentum is maintained in interest and attention on the assembly/parliament elections in the nations, in order to capitalise on the current levels of political engagement from students.
4. As the electoral spotlight is turned off by other national organisations following the end of the general election, NUS UK must ensure it supports NUS Wales, NUS USI and NUS Scotland in promoting and campaigning around the assembly elections
5. Engagement in these elections - both in manifesto lobbying and high student participation - can not only benefit students in the devolved nations, but can be a force for change across the UK.
6. The student movement has an important role to play in encouraging and supporting direct action, but annual demos in London aren't always the best use of NUS' time and money for influencing devolved powers and can leave students in the Nations feeling marginalised from NUS and the student movement.
7. That over the next year NUS UK has an opportunity to support the nations to increase the turnout of young people and students in their elections, and ensure students are at the forefront of political decisions being made.

NEC Resolves:

1. For NUS to actively and adequately support and resource the respective Assembly/Parliament election campaigns being led by NUS Scotland, NUS Wales & NUS-USI in the year ahead.
2. For the President and Vice Presidents to ensure their work plans are inclusive of devolved Nations elections and to offer support to Nations officers over the course of the year.
3. For the Vice President (Society and Citizenship) to work with the Nations officers to deliver a piece of work which encourages voter registration for students in the Nations and highlights devolved issues in each of the Nations which affect students.
4. For the Vice President (Union Development) to work with the Nations officers to deliver a piece of work which supports students' unions to develop campaigns to lobby local candidates on issues affecting students.

Meeting 4: 25 February 2016

Motion 1 | #NotMyCoOp

NEC Believes:

1. In October 2015, the Co-operative Bank closed more than 20 bank accounts held by pro-Palestine organisations.
2. This included the accounts of student Palestine Societies, as well as the national Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC).
3. PSC has launched a legal challenge to the Co-op, on the grounds that the decision contravenes the Equality Act 2010.
4. NUS has a significant corporate relationship with Co-op: the bank is NUS's primary account provider.
5. NUS has a proud history of supporting international justice and freedom for the Palestinian people.
6. The ability of the Palestine solidarity movement in the UK to function is severely limited if it is unable to hold a bank account – without accounts, organisations cannot fundraise or pay their workers.

7. The Co-operative boasts a strong ethical record; among other ethical stances, its shops do not stock Israeli settlement goods. The decision to close pro-Palestine bank accounts is not in keeping with the values it professes.
8. The Co-op has been favoured by NUS and other progressive organisations in part because it has been prepared to take risks (including financial risks) in support of human rights.
9. It is imperative that NUS uses its influence with corporate partners to hold them accountable.
10. The Co-op's decision is discriminatory. Palestine Societies at universities have had their accounts closed when their only purpose is awareness-raising among students. Merely having the word "Palestine" in their name was, it seems, enough to get their accounts closed.

NEC Resolves:

1. To write to Co-op Bank with immediate effect, demanding urgent remedial action, including:
 - i. Reinstating, with immediate effect, the accounts of all those Palestine solidarity organisations that have recently had their accounts closed, and issuing an apology for the obstruction and defamation caused by closure.
 - ii. Stating that the bank will work in good faith with any affected organisation that wishes to keep its account with the Co-operative to overcome any legal or regulatory obstacles that may exist.
 - iii. Providing assurance that it will seek appropriate independent oversight by the Values and Ethics Committee and publish the findings.
2. To research alternative options for NUS to bank with, and to make it clear to Co-op our intention of switching all NUS UK and NUS Services accounts within one month if the above steps have not been taken.

Emergency Motion 2 | More excuses for Anti-Semitism

NEC Believes:

1. Allegations of antisemitism within Oxford University Labour Club (OULC) have recently brought attention to the longstanding issue of antisemitism on campus.
2. The Oxford Jewish Society, the group that represents Jewish students at the University of Oxford, has produced a list of alleged incidents within OULC which if true would constitute antisemitism.
3. Many Jewish students do not feel that allegations of antisemitism are taken seriously in the student movement.
4. That all forms of oppression - including, but not limited to antisemitism, Islamophobia or racism - are wrong.

NEC Further Believes:

1. This is not the only incident of antisemitism on campus, and forms part of a trend in antisemitism on our campuses.
2. Antisemitism is abhorrent in all of its forms.
3. All allegations of antisemitism must be taken seriously by NUS and its elected officers.
4. By excusing antisemitism 'in context', it is not being taken seriously.
5. Criticising Israel is not antisemitic but it should be called out by NUS and its elected officers when people use antisemitic rhetoric in doing so.
6. As with any other oppressed group, it is ONLY Jewish students who are able to define the antisemitism they face.
7. Jewish students are one of the only oppressed group on campus who do not have an NUS liberation campaign that they can clearly define into to support them and help tackle their oppression.
8. Anti-Semitism is not confined to one side of the political spectrum and is prevalent across left to right, and everywhere in between.

NEC Resolves:

1. To support the relevant organisations at Oxford University to properly investigate allegations of antisemitism.

2. To ensure that antisemitism is included in NUS' review into institutional racism.
3. To provide training to NUS staff and officers to properly understand antisemitism and the problems facing Jewish students on campus.
4. To recommend training to student union sabbatical officers about antisemitism and understanding Jewish students.
5. That a statement be released by the NUS FTO team reaffirming their commitment to fighting antisemitism and those who seek to excuse it.

Motion 13 | Abortion Devolution

NEC Believes:

1. An announcement from the Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell, on 14th October 2015, clearly stated the Scottish Affairs Committee at Westminster will amend the Scotland Bill to devolve abortion law to the Scottish Parliament.
2. The amendment was initially brought forward by three English anti-choice MPs from the All-Party Parliamentary Pro-Life group, who seek to restrict women's access to reproductive justice.
3. To date, no women's organisation has been consulted on this.

NEC Further Believes:

1. There is a threat to women's reproductive rights already posed by the motion to Parliament lodged by John Mason, MSP (SNP), stating the importance of "achieving a proper balance" between the "fundamental rights of babies to be protected both before and after birth as well as the importance of women's sexual and reproductive rights".
2. Abortion legislation is rarely revisited as it is so contentious, therefore Scotland needs to get it right first time.
3. Devolution of abortion to Scotland poses questions around the stability of abortion legislation in England and Wales.
4. This announcement was unexpected and happened after NUS Scotland Women's Campaign resources were allocated.
5. Abortion is a pivotal issue for the women's movement and cannot be ignored.

NEC Resolves:

1. To support NUS Scotland Women's Campaign in their call for consultation with women and women's organisation across Scotland to ensure progressive, safe and accessible abortion legislation in Scotland.
2. To give NUS Scotland Women's Campaign support in order to effectively mobilise women students across Scotland.

Motion 3 | ARAF Convenors

NEC Believes:

1. That it is crucial for our union to have a strong and well functioning Anti Racism and Anti Fascism campaign.
2. That in a time of rising islamophobia, racism, and attacks on migrants, it is more urgent than ever to develop this area of work alongside other civil society campaigns.
3. That the NUS has important contributions to make in mobilising against fascism, campaigning against state islamophobia, offering solidarity to migrants, and countering hate crime both on our campuses and in society at large.
4. That the ARAF work of the NUS needs to be developed in close collaboration with the Black Students Campaign, given its representative role for all students of Asian, African, and Latin American descent and it's already active role in these struggles both in the student movement and beyond.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That there is so far no agreed process to choose ARAF co-conveners.
2. That this lack of clear procedures hampered this important area of work for several months, and was resolved through an executive decision of the national President.

3. That this situation should not be repeated.

NEC Resolves:

1. That one of the co-conveners positions of ARAF should be reserved for the BSO in their capacity as representative of students of African, Asian, and Latin American descent, who find themselves bearing the brunt of racist and fascist attack in this country.
2. That the second co-convenor should be elected from, and by, the NEC.
3. That this elected co-convenor should self-identify in a group targeted by racism and/or fascism, including but not limited to: Jews, Muslims, people of African and African-Caribbean descent, LGBTQ people and other historically marginalised groups and ethnic minorities.

Motion 10 | Make PrEP available on the NHS for free NOW!

NEC Believes:

1. There are now around 110,000 people living with HIV in the UK. Both men who sleep with men and black African communities are disproportionately affected by HIV.
2. Two European studies of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), PROUD1 and IPERGAY2, reported their results in February 2015. Both studies showed that PrEP was a highly effective method of HIV prevention, reducing new infections by 86%.

NEC Further Believes:

1. Rates of new HIV infections are far too high. The NHS urgently needs to make PrEP available NOW!
2. An NHS England process to evaluate PrEP is underway, but any decision to provide PrEP will not be implemented until late 2016 at the earliest. This is too long to wait.
3. We need to improve HIV prevention around the world and PrEP can help tackle unacceptable health inequalities.
4. Condom use has prevented tens of thousands of HIV infections. But levels of condom use are not high enough to bring HIV under control. Many people do not use condoms each time they have sex and every year there are thousands of new infections. PrEP could prevent new infections among some of those at greatest risk of acquiring HIV.
5. Condom use will remain a core strategy in HIV prevention. PrEP gives people who already find it difficult to consistently use condoms an additional way to protect their health.
6. PrEP can also be effective for heterosexual men and women. For example, a study in east Africa found that PrEP reduced infections within couples in which one partner is HIV positive by 75%.
7. PrEP allows someone to protect their own health, even if their partner refuses to use a condom.
8. Because it is taken before sex, it does not rely on decision-making at the time of sex.
9. As well as preventing HIV infection, PrEP has additional benefits including reducing stress and anxiety about HIV transmission. It can enhance pleasure and intimacy, and limit sexual dysfunction.
10. Many people, including those who are able to use other HIV prevention options, won't need PrEP.
11. Cost-effectiveness studies show that PrEP will be affordable if it is provided to people with a significant risk of acquiring HIV. People living with HIV need to take lifelong treatment. PrEP consists of fewer drugs and people only need to take it during periods when they are at risk of HIV.

NEC Resolves:

1. To actively campaign for earlier access to PrEP. The NHS must speed up its evaluation process and make PrEP available as soon as possible. Interim arrangements should be agreed now to provide PrEP to those at the highest risk of acquiring HIV.
2. To actively campaign for PrEP to be available to all people who are at high risk of acquiring HIV, whatever their gender or sexuality.
3. To actively campaign for the NHS to make PrEP available for free of charge on the NHS.
4. To actively campaign for PrEP to be made available to trans people.

Motion 4 | #BursaryorBust

NEC Believes:

1. The comprehensive spending review announced turning nursing, midwifery and allied health professional students' bursaries into loans in England. These changes may also affect paramedic courses.
2. When 50% of their course is dedicated to unpaid clinical practice, and the academic year is longer, these students already have fewer opportunities to work part time to find extra funding.
3. Nursing and midwifery students are more likely to be mature, working class and women. Many have already student for a first degree and so will be accruing even more debt.
4. The Royal College of Midwives has warned of debts of up to £65,000 could be accrued and that many are likely to be deterred from the profession.
5. Students in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales currently receive bursaries, but this change may prompt debates in devolved bodies.

NEC Further Believes:

1. NHS students are students as well as workers, and should be paid fairly for the work they carried out; not put in debt.
2. That the inability to meet the cost of living while on placement will have a huge impact on students' welfare and ability to continue into the profession.

NEC Resolves:

1. To condemn this move which shows disdain to the contribution of NHS workers and access to the profession, and to write to relevant ministers outlining our opposition.
2. To share the Royal College of Nursing's call for evidence, and the Royal College of Midwives' links to lobby MPs with relevant member unions.
3. To mobilise further opposition in consultation with students' societies and other unions, and to support further demonstrations and days of called.
4. To mandate the Vice President Welfare to produce a briefing on the issue, and to write to all Students' Unions with NHS-funded students offering support for writing a consultation response.
5. To design a campaign pack of materials including template placards, flyers, stickers and balloons with the #BursaryOrBust slogan to be used on local or national mobilisations.
6. To send a representative to the Bursary Consultation Debate on March 15th.

Motion 9 | Sarah Reed and police accountability

NEC Believes:

1. Sarah Reed, a Black woman, was found dead in HMP Holloway earlier this month.
2. Sarah's experiences in the prison and mental healthcare system have identified a litany of failings within both, which culminated in a vulnerable woman dying in prison in as-of-yet unclear circumstances.
3. Sarah's case is one in an unending series of Black deaths in state custody, with the prison, justice, mental health and immigration systems working in concert.
4. That the violence of the prison system betrays the violence of the state on the whole, and is entirely unfit to continue existing as such.
5. That accountability is desperately lacking.
6. Campaigns which do work towards challenging the state and this lack of accountability are often conducted through campaigns such as the United Families and Friends Campaign which are themselves under-supported and subject to smears and attack by the state.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That the experiences of people in the UK subject to violence by the police and state are often overlooked in favour of cases in the US.

2. That proportionally, the number of people killed in police/state custody in the UK are similar to if not worse than for in the US.
3. The Black Students' Campaign, alongside Defend the Right to Protest and United Families and Friends Coalition (UFFC) took part in a 'Caravan for Justice' tour in October across California, speaking on the experiences of Black communities affected by state brutality in the US and the UK.

NEC Resolves:

1. NUS to affiliate with the United Families and Friends Campaign
2. NUS to affiliate with Defend the Right to Protest
3. To encourage SUs to twin with UFFC and support localised families and campaigns

Motion 6 | Supporting Black Student Officers

NEC Believes:

1. Representation of Black students in sabbatical and part-time officer positions across SUs has increased significantly in the past few years.
2. Despite this, the culture of SUs is not one that is favourable to the presence of Black people.
3. Black sabbs are often left alienated and undermined in their roles, subject to varying levels of hostility and have 'their causes' dismissed and sidelined as being niche, or 'not inclusive' of students.
4. This is underpinned by the discourse of the 'average student' – a nebulous category from which Black students are forever excluded.
5. Black students' officers positions, as with other liberation roles, are for the vast majority of cases under-resourced and under-supported in those roles
6. The Race Matters report has identified commonalities between the experiences of Black staff in SUs and Black sabbs, with staff speaking on experiences of isolation and exclusion that have long been documented anecdotally by Black officers.
7. The UCU's recent survey of its Black members found experiences of Black academics to be similarly coloured by discrimination and isolation.

NEC Further Believes:

1. There is a systematic issue of racism and marginalisation of Black people at every level of the education system.
2. This is something which cannot be remedied by increasing Black representation alone.
3. The Black Students' Campaign is continuously inundated with appeals from Black students and student sabbs who find themselves subject to the racism of this system.
4. It is incumbent on NUS on the whole to support BSC in combatting this, and in supporting student officers from liberation backgrounds more generally in environments and structures that were never built for them.

NEC Resolves:

1. To work with the Black Students' Officer to develop a comprehensive plan effective for rollout to member unions on supporting Black students in officer roles, including interrogating the culture of SUs.
2. To work with the Black Students' Campaign to conduct surveys and research across member unions on the experiences of Black SU officers.
3. To continue building upon the recommendations of the Race Matters report and draw together Black student officers and Black SU staff in developing actionable strategy based on that.

Motion 7 | Y-Stop and police brutality

NEC Believes:

1. That the question of Police violence has been an ongoing concern in the history of the student movement.

2. That since 1990, 1501 people have died in police custody, which is – on average – more than 1 person a week.
3. That the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that black people are up to 28 times more likely to be stopped and searched than white people.
4. A YouGov poll carried out for Stonewall found that 'one in five lesbian and gay people have experienced a homophobic hate crime or incident in the last three years'.
5. Furthermore, it found that a third of victims did not report it because they 'didn't think (the Police) would take it seriously.'
6. A UCU briefing found that 36% of Transgender people had no confidence in going to the police to report hate crime.
7. That in 2012 7% of rape cases reported to the police led to a conviction.
8. That in 2014 28% of rape cases reported to the police were sent to the crown prosecution service, the lowest number since the records began.
9. Women's aid notes that despite the fact that 16% of recorded violent crime concerns domestic abuse, 'in 30% of domestic violence incidents reported to the police, no action is taken', '7% of all reported incidents' result in charges, and '4% of reported incidents result in a conviction.

NEC Further Believes:

1. There is a systematic issue of racism and marginalisation of Black people at every level of the education system.
2. This is something which cannot be remedied by increasing Black representation alone.
3. The Black Students' Campaign is continuously inundated with appeals from Black students and student officers who find themselves subject to the racism of this system.
4. It is incumbent on NUS on the whole to support BSC in combatting this, and in supporting student officers from liberation backgrounds more generally in environments and structures that were never built for them.

NEC Resolves:

1. To work with Y-Stop in rolling out and publicising their new stop and search app to membership, particularly communicating this to FE unions
2. Integrate stop and search workshops into NUS training events
3. To release a briefing on police violence, police harassment and deaths in police custody.

Motion 11 | Estrangement should be high on the agenda

NEC 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. In 2008 NUS conducted research into the experiences of estranged students and Student Finance which led to drastic changes being made to the evidence required to be granted estranged status by Student Finance.
3. Estranged Students are currently entitled to the maximum financial support from Student Finance and may be entitled to additional bursaries if they are available at their university or college.
4. Letting agents and Landlords often require a financial guarantor in the form of a parent or guardian in 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.
5. Estranged students are more likely to experience poor mental health and experience higher dropout rates than their non-estranged peers.
6. Studies have shown that LGBT+ and BME students more likely to experience estrangement.

NEC Further Believes:

1. Current access agreements for universities and colleges do not focus on estrangement and thus do not collect information on estranged students.

2. There is a severe lack of specific support services for estranged students studying at university and college and thus estranged students may not know about the availability of hardship funds and additional support when applying to study at these institutions.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Estranged student face particular issues, and by creating support networks between these students can allow estranged students to support each other and thus improve their mental wellbeing and reduce dropout rates.

NEC Resolves:

1. To provide 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.
5. To encourage NUS to improve support for estranged students in FE and HE.
6. To lobby universities and colleges to include estrangement in their access agreements.
7. To lobby Student Finance 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 12 | No Women in Men's Prisons!

NEC Believes:

1. That Tara Hudson, a trans woman, was placed in a men's prison despite the judge sentencing her recommending that she should be placed in a women's prison.
2. That Vicky Thompson, another trans woman who said she would kill herself if she was placed in a men's prison, was placed in HMP Leeds, a Category B male prison, and was subsequently found dead in November 2015.
3. That Joanne Latham, another trans woman, was placed in HMP Woodhill, and was subsequently found dead in November 2015
4. That the Ministry of Justice and the Women and Equalities Select Committee are aware of abuses of trans people in the justice system, as shown by submissions of evidence to the latter body for the Government's Trans Enquiry.
5. An emergency motion to similar effect was passed at NUS Trans conference last year.
6. There is currently no non-binary provision in prisons.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That placing trans people into prisons based on the gender they were assigned at birth puts them at high risk of violence and abuse from both other prisoners and prison staff.
2. That automatically placing trans people in isolated confinement constitutes torture and discrimination based on their identity.
3. Self-definition should be the only criteria when deciding which gendered prison someone should be in.
4. Placing these trans women into a men's prison makes the government directly responsible for the deaths of these women.
5. Everyone's gender should be recognized.

NEC Resolves:

1. That prisons minister Andrew Selous should resign, and the NUS should campaign for his resignation.
2. For a completely independent inquiry into abuses of trans people in the justice system.
3. That custodial sentences should only be used as an absolute last resort when all other methods of rehabilitation have failed.
4. That anybody receiving a custodial service should be placed in the general population of a prison conforming to their self-defined gender.
5. To campaign for the Ministry of Justice review on trans women in the justice system to include at least one trans woman on the panel and to ensure the panel is intersectional.
6. To campaign for the changing of prison for any trans women placed in a men's prison.
7. To campaign for any review to look at non-binary people in prison.

Emergency motion 1 | Council Bans

NEC Believes:

1. That last week, Senior Government sources informed the Independent of their plans to 'crack down on town-hall boycotts'⁴.
2. That the government is proposing to make it illegal for government funded bodies to make investment and purchasing decisions based on ethical considerations. 3.
3. That this move targets campaigns such as those, but not limited to, who campaign against sweatshop labour, arms companies, tobacco companies, fossil fuel companies, and Israel's contraventions of international law.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That this announcement is an attempt to undermine the campaigns named above.
2. That this development is part of a wider crack down on political and civil liberties, as exemplified by the government's prevent strategy.
3. That although these announcements have been targeted towards local councils, it was reported that 'Government sources said the ban could also apply to student union boycotts but added this was a "grey area"'.⁵
4. That allowing action to be taken against local councils today, opens Student Unions to face similar bans tomorrow.

NEC Resolves:

1. To call on officers to lobby the government to reverse its current policy
2. For NUS to release a press release by Monday calling on the government to reverse its policy, and underlining specifically that we believe that campaigns such as Fossil Free, BDS, no sweatshops, or opposition to tobacco and arms companies are positive, justified, and should be encouraged.
3. To work alongside the targeted campaigns against government censure

Motion 2 | Stop Turkey's War on the Kurds! Break the Silence!

NEC Believes:

1. The recent attacks on Kurdish communities in Turkey by the Turkish military, have killed nearly 200 people, including senior politicians and community activists.⁵
2. 25 million Kurds in Turkey have suffered decades of repression, including the deaths of 30,000 Kurds in a war for autonomy and civil rights in the 1980s/90s.⁶

⁴ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/israel-boycott-local-councils-public-bodies-and-student-unions-to-be-banned-from-shunning-israeli-a6874006.html>

⁵ <http://peaceinkurdistancampaign.com/national-demo-stop-turkeys-war-on-the-kurds-break-the-silence/>

⁶ <http://peaceinkurdistancampaign.com/national-demo-stop-turkeys-war-on-the-kurds-break-the-silence/>

3. There are 300,000 Kurdish refugees in the UK.⁷
4. The Kurdish community has overwhelmingly supported the HDP party, a party calling for equal rights for Kurds and labour and other civil rights for minorities in Turkey, received over 12% or 6 million votes at elections in 2015, and is generally a pro-Kurdish, pro-LGBT and pro-feminist party.
5. The Turkish state responded to this vote for peace and rights by attacking Kurdish cities with helicopter gunships, occupying with tanks and using snipers to murder activists.
6. There exists tacit support for ISIS/Daesh in Syria by Turkey, which has included attacking and stopping aid to Kurdish fighters in Syria, one of the major forces currently battling ISIS/Daesh.
7. Turkey is a member of NATO, a key ally of the UK in the Middle East and thus enjoys implicit support from the UK, which continues to criminalise membership of the PKK, a major political wing of the Kurdish liberation movement, which restricts Kurds' ability to organise politically.
8. That the Turkish state continues to criminalise political activities and imprison journalists who criticise the state for, among other things, continuing its repression of the Kurdish people and denying them their autonomy, its continual denial of the Turkish/Ottoman state's genocide of over a million Armenians during World War I and for its invasion and continuing military occupation of Cyprus.

NEC Further Believes:

1. A national demonstration has been organised by the Kurdish National Congress UK, Peace in Kurdistan and London Kurdish Solidarity on March 6 2016 in London, under the slogan "STOP TURKEY'S WAR ON THE KURDS! Break the Silence!"
2. There is a student bloc on the demo organised by the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts, and students from all over the UK are going to the demonstration in solidarity.

NEC Resolves:

1. To call on the UK government to put pressure on Turkey to stop attacks on the Kurds, and to finally give Kurds equal rights in Turkey, which it can do due to Turkey's desire to join the EU, and the fact that Turkey and the UK are longstanding NATO allies.
2. To work with trade unions and other progressive organisations to help create a solidarity movement to put significant pressure on the UK government to take action against Turkey.
3. To publicly support the upcoming national demonstration on March 6 in London:
 - a. Advertise it via emails and social media to students and to SUs, especially those in London, to encourage them to attend
 - b. Have an NUS delegation present at the demonstration.

Motion 5 | Supporting Mobilisations

NEC Resolves:

1. To support and promote upcoming national mobilisations against austerity, racism and war, in line with NUS's values.
2. To use NUS Connect to advertise the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament demonstration on February 27th against Trident renewal, the UN day of anti-racism march on March 19th and the Peoples Assembly demonstration for Jobs, Homes, Health and Education on April 16th
3. To form or join a 'student bloc' on each demonstration.
4. For NUS to design and produce specific placards and flyers using funds from the priority budget for the April 16th demo focussing on NUS's own priority campaigns within the broader demands.
5. To despatch materials for use promoting April 16th to any Students' Union which requests them, and to use NUS Extra e-mail communication to promote the action.

⁷ <http://www.independentlabour.org.uk/main/2014/12/01/where-is-the-left%E2%80%99s-anger-over-isis/>

Emergency Motion 3 | #StandWithJNU

NEC Believes:

1. Over recent days Indian police have entered Jawaharlal Nehru University campus using sedition charges as their pretext, in response to student demonstrations in solidarity with the Free Kashmir movement and against privatisation in the university.
2. Charges of sedition, which come from a section of the penal code that dates back to the days of colonialism, are repeatedly used to repress political movements.
3. The president of the student union, Kanhaiya Kumar, was arrested – also on sedition charges – and has still not been released.
4. Indian students and academics have launched an international solidarity campaign called #StandWithJNU

NEC Resolves:

1. To stand in solidarity with students in JNU university against state repression.
2. To demand the immediate release of Kanhaiya Kumar, JNU Students Union President.
3. To reaffirm our unions' commitment to freedom of expression and academic freedom both at home and abroad.

Emergency Motion 4 | For a full investigation of Giulio Regeni's death

NEC Believes:

1. On February 3rd 2016, Giulio Regeni's body was discovered in a ditch in Cairo, showing evidence of torture and slow death.
2. Regeni was doing research for his PhD at the University of Cambridge.
3. Students and Staff at the University of Cambridge have started a petition calling on the UK government to launch 'a credible investigation of this extrajudicial killing'.
4. At 10,000 signatures, government has to respond to this petition.
5. At 100,000 signatures, this petition has to be considered for debate in Parliament

NEC Resolves:

1. For the petition (<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/120832>) to be circulated on internal networks, calling on officers and students to sign and disseminate it.
2. To encourage FTOs to sign, endorse, and circulate the petition.

Emergency Motion 5 | Solidarity With RMF Activists in South Africa

NEC Believes:

1. South African students within their universities have begun organising to challenge institutional racism and white supremacy, both of which are distressing legacies of colonisation and Apartheid.
2. Movements like "Rhodes Must Fall" and "Disrupting Whiteness UCT" seek to transform universities and local communities by ensuring racial justice.
3. The Rhodes Must Fall (RMF) Campaign at the University of Cape Town successfully challenged the supremacist adoration of Cecil Rhodes and racial inequality within the university and its curriculum, which then led to committees being put in place to liberate the curriculum from the grip of white supremacy.
4. There is still a long way to go to reach racial equality in South Africa.

5. Students involved in RMF and the "Fees Must Fall" Campaign were arrested for peacefully protesting outside Parliament. Their Trial is set to commence on March 30th.

NEC Further Believes:

1. RMF movements across SA recently started peacefully campaigning and demonstrating for affordable student accommodation and housing.
2. These campaigns and protests have been met with heavily armed police and private security forces, hired by tertiary institutions, to forcefully remove students. As such, police and other security forces have physically assaulted students.
3. The current minister responsible for Higher Education in South Africa, Dr Blade Nzimande, was quoted saying "Students Must Fall" in response to RMF and the Fees Must Fall campaign which highlights the disdain and disregard for students and student welfare.⁸

NEC Resolves:

1. Condemn all violence associated. Including Police Brutality and Security Forces assaulting students
2. Condemn the South African Government for its treatment of student protesters.
3. Condemn Police Brutality and any University which has brought in private security to "remove" students.
4. Issue a statement of solidarity and support to activists in RMF movements across South Africa.

Meeting 5: 8 June 2016

Justice for Hillsborough

NEC Believes

1. The Hillsborough disaster was one of the biggest cover-ups in Britain's history, with the government, media and police working in concert to smear the deceased fans and avoid culpability for the police.
2. This included the police trying to criminalize the dead by running criminal checks on the dead and with the coroner performing an unprecedented alcohol check on all the dead so that they could blame the incident on fans and alcohol.
3. That at the Hillsborough inquiry concluded this year, jurors found the then-match commander, Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, "responsible for manslaughter by gross negligence" due to a breach of his duty of care⁹.
4. That as of this month, dismissal proceedings against the suspended South Yorkshire chief constable David Crompton have begun.
5. The inquiry exonerated the victims and their families who have been fighting for justice for decades.
6. That the inquiry was only forced by the campaigning of the families, and that many families campaigns for police and state accountability continue to struggle against injustice

NEC Resolves

1. Release a statement of solidarity with the Hillsborough families and support their demands following the inquiry.
2. Re-affirm our support for the United Families and Friends Campaign and Defend the Right to Protest in supporting victims of police and state violence, as well as campaigning for proper accountability of the police and state forces.
3. Work with SUs to provide training for students to use the stop and search app from Y-Stop

⁸ <http://www.news24.com/Live/SouthAfrica/News/WATCH-Blade-Nzimande-says-Students-must-fall-and-laughs-20151022>

⁹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-36138337>

Supporting UCU's campaign for fair pay in HE

NEC Believes:

1. The Universities and Colleges Employers' Association (UCEA) has offered education workers a 1.1% increase which is a pay cut in real terms and which the University and College Union (UCU) has described as "an insult"
2. Higher education workers have suffered a real term pay cut of 14.5% since 2009
3. At the same time, pay and benefits for university leaders have increased by an average of 3% with the average pensions and pay packet for vice-chancellors' standing at over £270,000
4. Education workers deserve fair pay and that the UCEA has the ability to pay them more
5. Quality teaching is essential to students and poor pay of teachers affects the quality of education students receive
6. UCU has confirmed plans for a two-day national strike at UK universities as part of this dispute on 25th and 26th May.
7. Staff will also begin working to contract from 25 May, which means they will refuse to work overtime, set additional work or undertake any voluntary duties like covering timetabled classes for absent colleagues.
8. If no agreement is reached in the coming weeks, members have agreed to target further strike action in June and July, and are considering additional action in August to coincide with the release of A-level results. The union is also beginning preparations for a boycott of the setting and marking of students' work, to begin in the autumn if an acceptable offer has still not been made
9. The effects of short term disruption caused by the strike are outweighed by the greater harm that the reduction in money spent on teaching and education workers would cause to students' education
10. Many of our postgraduate members are also education workers and UCU members, or have the potential to be
11. Students and education workers are fighting the same battle against the marketisation and privatisation of the sector and for good-quality, well-funded education which is free and accessible to all.

NEC Resolves:

1. To support UCU, any other education trade unions that join the dispute and education workers in their dispute and with their industrial action
2. To call on the UCEA to scrap their current pay offer and agree to the demands put forward by UCU
3. To make materials to send to students unions explaining why this industrial action is taking place, why the NUS are supporting it and how they can support it on their campus too
4. To support demonstrations and direct action in pursuit of the dispute's demands
5. To encourage postgraduates who teach to join UCU and to take part in the industrial action
6. To coordinate support campaigning with the elected representatives of the UCU and any other education trade unions that join the dispute

Supporting UCU Strike Action

NEC Believes

1. That UCU have announced a two-day national strike on the 25/26th May at universities following a dispute over payment offers by the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association (UCEA).
2. That preparations are being made for further action to take place over summer, including the possible boycotting of marking, if an acceptable offer of payment has not been agreed with UCEA.
3. Since 2009, staff in the HE sector have faced a 14.5% pay cut in real terms wages.

NEC Further Believes

1. That we should affirm our support for our lecturers in this industrial dispute and encourage member unions to support their local branches and demand that UCEA return to the table to accept the demands made by UCU and negotiate a mutually agreed settlement between parties.
2. In the context of the incoming HE Bill and the further marketization and atomisation of the HE sector, solidarity between educators and students is particularly important in combatting threats to the sector.
3. That we should oppose attempts to undermine educators, or divide students from educators.

NEC Resolves

1. To support UCU in their dispute with UCEA to secure fair pay including any escalation taken over summer and/or in the autumn term and release a statement to this effect, whilst also demanding UCEA to negotiate an acceptable settlement with UCU.
2. Encourage member unions to direct demands towards UCEA in support of UCU as well.

Celebrating Trade Unions

NEC Believes:

1. Students' Unions and student activists have recently played a supportive role during the Junior Doctors', FE and HE staff strikes; while NUS has a partnership agreement with the Trades Union Council and a proud history of supporting trade unions in fighting for better rights.
2. The Durham Miners' Gala is one of the largest political events in Europe, and one of the world's largest celebrations of trade unions.
3. Many unions (including UNISON and NUT) are official supporters of the event.

NEC Further Believes:

1. The trade union movement is an imperative part of the UK's democracy, a strong student movement is complimentary to a strong labour movement, and we are powerful when working and acting together.
2. When NUS organizes actions, we often invite trade unions to support us. So too do we offer our official endorsement for large mobilisations by the TUC and others.

NEC Resolves:

1. To become a supportive organization of the Durham Miners' Gala, taking place on July 9th 2016.
2. To reiterate our support for strong trade unions, opposition to this Government's attempts to undermine the ability of unions to organise through the Trade Union Bill; and a renewed commitment to working alongside unions.

Motion 207 | Cutting the costs of education to build a debt free future

NEC believes

1. Education is a right and everyone who wishes to should have the opportunity to access study, at all levels.
2. In both further and higher education, including workplace and adult learning, student support is inadequate, is becoming even scarcer and, in higher education, is based on students' ability to take on mortgage levels of debt.
3. The government's withdrawal of maintenance grants, and the ending of NHS bursaries will leave hundreds of thousands of higher education students with rising levels of debt – and the poorest students graduating with an unprecedented financial burden.
4. The withdrawal of public funding and switch to private debt has had an impact on education in every part of the United Kingdom – with budgets under pressure in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as a result of devolution arrangements.

5. With college budgets continually under pressure and the consolidation of the sector underway, students in further education are being forced to rely on high-interest personal debt to cover living costs.
6. 'Pound in Your Pocket' research shows clear associations between student support and student wellbeing and retention.
7. The undermining and withdrawal of student support is therefore damaging access and retention in all areas of education.
8. Student support is also becoming increasingly fragmented across each area of study, with little information and help available in advance for students to plan and budget to make ends meet.
9. Students are struggling to cover the cost of their day to day living as costs continue to rise year in, year out – regardless of inflation.
10. NUS research has shown that over a third of all students have considered leaving their course in HE, with half of those stating financial difficulties as the cause.
11. Half of all students regularly worry about not having enough money to pay the rent and their bills.
12. Students' unions are struggling to cope with the huge demand for advice services as students seek support and help with financial stress.
13. NUS' #CutTheCosts campaign has highlighted the crisis that students and students' unions are facing in student support, with rising levels of debt making this crisis worse for the future.

NEC Further Believes

1. Building a debt-free future for education is more than a battle against tuition fees in higher education.
2. Student debt encompasses the vast amount, and costs, associated with overdrafts, family borrowing, pay day lenders and working overtime to cover the costs of study or having to choose between eating and heating.
3. Debt and excessive financial pressures are contributing to the mental health crisis that students are facing.
4. may take on.
5. Rising Students' choices are being limited by debt – with the poorest students more likely to choose different forms of study or institutions because of the levels of debt they debts have affected the number of part-time and mature students accessing higher education.
6. Rising student debt also affects inequality within education – with the poorest and most disadvantaged students; such as women, Black, disabled and LGBT+ students relying on student support to access education.
7. Saddling students and young people with rising levels of personal debt is failing to recognise the causes of the 2008 financial crisis – where mortgage levels of private household debt is widely recognised as the single greatest contributing factor.
8. Building a future on debt for young people and students is a recipe for disaster – and you cannot balance the books on the backs of students.

NEC Resolves

1. To continue to campaign to cut the costs of education, to build a debt-free future for education at all levels of study.
2. To focus on improving student support by supporting students' unions to lobby institutions locally to protect funding for students.

3. To campaign to win more funding for students' unions advice services, to cope with the rising number of students who are facing financial pressures.
4. To campaign to secure funding for further education students to cover any rising costs as a result of the area reviews process and make sure colleges make means-tested grants and support available.
5. To support students' unions in the nations to protect education in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland from any loss of funding which may result from government changes in England.
6. To run a campaign to win the hearts and minds of students, the public and the sector for a fair and equal education system that is debt-free.
7. To challenge the hypocrisy of the Westminster government in increasing private debt for students and young people by launching a debt-clock campaign that highlights this growing, mortgage-level, debt for students.
8. To Work with Martin Lewis, of Money Saving Expert, to lobby the government to protect current terms, for good, on all student loans.
9. To work to grow the number and type of discounts available to students through the NUS Extra Card that support students' on a daily basis and support students' unions to increase the number of students purchasing the card – putting money back into students' unions.

Motion 208 | Pride and Prejudice in Education

NEC Believes

1. In 2014 NUS LGBT+ Campaign worked with many organisations to create research into the experiences of LGBT+ Students and Staff in Further Education
2. That over 1000 people took part in the research from colleges and adult education centres all over the UK
3. That since 2010 the government cuts have been made across many sectors, including both further and higher education.
4. Further Education has been hit hard by the cuts, with average cuts of at least 25%

NEC Further Believes

1. It is widely acknowledged that information, advice and guidance in schools is inadequate, meaning that many students may not be aware of all their options (including Further Education) on leaving compulsory education.
2. The findings from our 'Pride and Prejudice in education research found that - 47% of Trans students have seriously thought about dropping out of education
3. One in 10 LGB+ learners said that they were not out to anyone in education, within friends or family

NEC Resolves

1. To mandate the VP FE to work with the NUS LGBT+ Officers to identify and highlight how this cut will affect LGBT students in college, and adult education
2. To mandate the VP FE and committee to work with the NUS LGBT+ Officers and further education learning providers should be to focus efforts on protecting and preventing learners from experiencing homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, harassment and assault, whether perpetrated by staff or other learners, and to provide appropriate reporting and disciplinary mechanisms when incidents do occur
3. For the VP FE to encourage, further education providers collect information on sexual orientation and gender identity for equality monitoring purposes, efforts should be made to encourage

reporting through reassuring and explaining to learners the reasons for such data collection, and providing details about how it is securely stored. Reporting in either of these categories should, however, remain completely voluntary

4. For the VP FE campaign for design specific guidance and toolkits for Further Education and adult education providers to tackle the issues that are presented in the findings of the research and implement the recommendations to help further education providers.

Motion 213 | Stop Doing Over our Nursing and Allied Health Professions Students

NEC Believes

1. There are huge problems with academic failure and lack of support for nursing and allied health professions students, across all institutions
2. NSS scores consistently track lower for Nursing and Midwifery courses against the average
3. Many nurses, midwives and allied health professions are on placement for half the year and as a result they are very unlikely to be involved with their Unions, societies and sports clubs.
4. Nursing and allied health professions placements are often some distance from the institution therefore increasing isolation and reducing the amount of contact time for face to face support with their institution to a minimum
5. Students on nursing courses and allied health professionals are often mature, with dependants and many institutions fail support those with these and other additional needs.
6. Nursing failure and dropout rates are at epidemic levels
7. Whilst on placement there is the added pressure to meet the demands submitting and preparing for assessments leads to academic failure, misconduct and stress
8. Nursing and allied health professions students can be course terminated through the means of 'fitness to practice'.

NEC Further Believes

1. Nursing and allied health professional NHS bursaries have been scrapped with barely a whimper from NUS' education zone
2. Year after year NUS passes motions on Nursing and Midwifery that never seem to go anywhere
3. The last NUS Charter for Nursing and Midwifery students was published 21 years ago
4. The NMC's standards for Nursing and Midwifery education (like the QAA for these courses) fail to mention student support, student representation or social activity
5. These students need NUS and our campaigning work now more than ever

NEC Resolves

1. That any review of NUS' governance should address nursing, midwifery and allied health professions students, as a specific area
2. To look at integration of nursing across many Unions and their campuses to increase nursing and allied health professions representation
3. To work with trade unions to protect placements and future jobs for current nursing students
4. To hold a national summit on representation of Nursing, Midwifery and allied health professions students in conjunction with Unison, the RCN and the RCM relevant professional bodies

5. To lobby the NMC and other bodies to improve the standard of student representation, student social facilities and student wellbeing delivered by HEIs
6. To carry out research into the student experience of students on Nursing, Midwifery and allied health professions courses
7. To create a national charter for Student Nursing and Midwifery education

Motion 215 | UCAS for postgrads: free applications

NEC Believes

1. Postgraduate education is inaccessible to most students, dependent on ability to pay
2. There is no universal application system such as UCAS in place for postgraduate students
3. Without a universal application system, applying for multiple Masters is time consuming
4. While tuition fees for postgraduate education remain high, other in built costs restrict students ability to even apply in the first place
5. Institutions can charge high application fees which prices students out of education
6. There is an underrepresentation of women and BME students in academia
7. The Higher Education bill is concerned with student choice and we need to capitalise on that for students

NEC Further Believes

1. It is the role of NUS to be lobbying for fair, affordable, and accessible application systems
2. So far, efforts have focussed on postgraduate loans
3. The development of a universal postgraduate application system would enable more students to apply to postgraduate study
4. The removal of costs to applications would also enable and encourage more students to apply to postgraduate study
5. The introduction of a universal postgraduate application system would facilitate real choice for students

NEC Resolves

1. NUS to lobby UCAS, the government, and other sector bodies to develop a universal postgraduate application system
2. NUS to provide support to students' unions on lobbying for free applications for students to apply for a Masters
3. That the Vice President for Higher Education should make a public statement demanding fair, transparent and free application system

Motion 216 | Academic Publishing Exploiting Academics and University Budgets

NEC believes

1. Academic publishing sees such success because it is based on a model where Universities pay for the research, writing, reviewing and sometimes editing of journals, which they then have to buy back for their libraries.
2. The work of a current academic is dominated by teaching, marking, administration, pastoral care and organisational politics, therefore allowing very little time for research and peer reviewing.

3. An academics livelihood and reputation is dependent on publishing academic journals. Academic publications, citations of publications and conference presentations have become metrics for academic performance
4. For most articles in high-impact scientific journals the publisher also charges the scientists (or their funders or university) up to several hundred pounds per page published, with additional charges for the inclusion of images such as data from microscopic investigation of cells.
5. Some publishers also charge a non-refundable handling charge for considering the article, even if they reject it. This is in spite of the fact that the time-consuming work of peer review is done by scientific experts on an unpaid and voluntary basis.
6. In addition, the development of publication software has allowed the publishers to transfer much of the work of preparing a paper for publication to the scientist, so valuable research time – funded out of public sources or by medical charities – is now diverted to learning to use software to do work that was previously undertaken by employees of the publisher.
7. In Britain, 65% of the money spent on content in academic libraries goes on journals, up from a little more than half ten years ago.
8. In 2011, Elsevier, the biggest publisher of journals with almost 2,000 titles, cruised through the recession. Last year it made £724m (\$1.1 billion) on revenues of £2 billion—an operating-profit margin of 36%.
9. A report by the house of commons Science and Technology Committee (2004) notes that digital culture is often unavailable to the public in libraries due to licencing agreements.

NEC resolves:

1. Work with Universities and staff unions to explore alternative models for academic publishing.
2. Lobby for a move away from for-profit publishing companies and towards autonomous journal publishing.
3. Consider how we can use open access and online publishing to make work towards a fairer system.

Motion 218 | We Were Told Student Loans Weren't Like Bank Loans

NEC Believes

1. Tuition fees were introduced in 1998 at an original level of £1,000. Since then tuition fees have increased and in 2012 the cap on tuition fees was raised to £9,000.
2. Since the introduction of £9,000 tuition fees the predicted amount of debt faced by graduates is between £40,000-£50,000.
3. The government has recently announced plans to prosecute graduates for failing to pay back their student loans on time.
4. Other proposed actions aimed at students included collaborating with HMRC and the Treasury to further crack down on graduates living overseas and placing sanctions on graduates.
5. Currently 48% of total loans are predicted to be written off as graduates fail to be able to pay back over the term of the loan.

NEC Further Believes

1. Students and graduates should not have to bear the burden the failure of the government's financially illiterate funding model for Higher Education.
2. If further income is required to fund government expenditure this should be made by cracking down on tax avoidance by large corporations, not balanced on the back of graduates.

NEC Resolves

1. For NUS to campaign against further measures to prosecute graduates for failing to repay loans.
2. For NUS to campaign against the financially illiterate model of ever-increasing loans and against any retrospective changes to their terms and conditions.

3. For NUS to provide guidance to SUs for winning these arguments locally with institutions and MPs.

Motion 220 | Support SUs that are campaigning to reverse NHS Bursary Cuts

NEC Believes

1. The removal of bursaries would see students burdened with at least £51,600. Loan repayments will mean a nurse, midwife or allied health professional will lose over £900 a year.
2. One of the reasons healthcare courses remain popular is that the funding arrangements are different and act as an incentive in comparison with other university programmes. Scrapping the NHS bursary is likely to discourage people from considering becoming a nurses, midwives or allied health professionals, exacerbating the current recruitment crisis.
3. Student nurses and midwives are expected to undertake clinical placements during non-term time, which means they have little time to do paid work. While other university students take part-time jobs to support themselves, this really isn't a viable option for nurses on such a challenging and intensive course.

NEC Resolves

1. To support SUs campaigning to reverse NHS Bursary cuts and publicise how important bursaries are currently to nursing student

Motion 222 | Giving Part Time Students a Fair Deal

NEC Believes

1. Most recent UCAS figures showed the number of students taking undergraduate degrees on a part-time basis fell by a further 6% in 2014-15, continuing a steep decline in participation seen since tuition fees nearly tripled in 2012.
2. As a result just 570,000 people are now studying part-time at British universities – including first degrees, diplomas and postgraduate courses – compared with 824,000 in 2010-11, before the hike in fees took effect.
3. At higher education establishments in England alone, the equivalent number of part-time students has fallen from 350,000 in 2010-11 to 203,000 in 2014-15.
4. The HE Green Paper is lacking any mentions to address access to part-time education.

NEC Further Believes

1. Improving access to HE requires focus on lifelong learning and part-time study.
2. The government's introduction of maintenance loans for part-time students from 2018-19 is a welcomed step but is nowhere near enough.

NEC Resolves

1. To lobby for financial support in the form of grants for part-time students on foundation, first undergraduate and postgraduate courses.
2. To lobby for the introduction of financial support in bite-sized chunks so that students could study for individual modules rather than immediately committing to full degrees.
3. To lobby for opening the Childcare and Adult Dependant's grants to part-time applicants.

Motion 223 | UCAS 'name-blind admissions' - and beyond

NEC Believes

1. Research in the U.S. and in France has shown that there is systematic bias in job recruitment as a result of discrimination of candidates with non-white sounding names.
2. Research by Dr. Vikki Boliver at Durham University suggests that only 36% of applicants for Russell Group universities from ethnic minority backgrounds receive places compared to 55% of white applicants.
3. Name-blind application processes are already standard practice in recruitment in many companies to remove unconscious bias in shortlisting.
4. The government has committed itself to tackling “unconscious bias” in higher education admissions.
5. The Prime Minister has said that UCAS will make its admissions name-blind by 2017.

NEC Further Believes

1. We live in an unequal society, dominated by privileged groups, where power relations are institutionalised in spaces such as education.
2. Inequalities in education are maintained and amplified as a result of institutionalised forms of bias and discrimination of which the staff and academics involved may or may not be aware of.
3. Name-blind applications will not solve these inequalities on their own, but they have the potential to remove some opportunities for relations of domination to be upheld, and help to promote fair access in education.
4. Applications processes differ from institution to institution and also courses, so action must be taken across all methods of reviewing applications, including interviews and portfolio applications.
5. We must not allow the government or our institutions to think that name-blind applications are a definitive solution to fair access; we must continue to push for further action against all forms of discrimination and social inequality found in our education system and beyond.

NEC Resolves

1. To support calls for a pilot of name-blind admissions in higher education institutions in the UK.
2. To call for UCAS, UUK and the research community to cooperate on developing a better understanding of inequality and bias in UKHE admissions.
3. To call on UCAS to take the necessary steps to open up its data to researchers, whilst also protecting students’ rights to individual data protection.
4. To demand further action to tackle and mitigate bias and inequality in admissions.
5. To demand the further work be done on eliminating bias in interview processes where HE institutions employ them for admissions.
6. To continue to campaign for protection and extension of public funding for fair access through the Student Opportunities Fund.
7. To work with the sector on producing further research on issues of bias and inequality in admissions at postgraduate level and in access to apprenticeships.

Motion 224 | Caring about care experience

NEC Believes

1. NUS has outstanding policy mandating NUS officers to work with organisations on issues pertaining to the specific lived experience of people who have spent time living in care.

2. The Buttle Quality Mark, which was the only framework by which support was measured for students who had been, or who remain, in the care of the state, ended in academic year 2014/15 in Scotland, and in 2013/14 everywhere else in the UK.
3. The Children & Young People Act (Scotland) (2014) extended the age of leaving care to 25. This means that students coming to college, university or other HEIs may now not be “care leavers” but indeed, may still be in care.
4. There is no parity comparison across the UK as to what type of care experience is classified and counted officially. For example, “kinship care” is counted in Scotland but not in England.

NEC Further Believes

1. Our education institutions have an increased moral and ethical responsibility to students coming to study, from a care background.
2. In Scotland, every post-16 education body is named in law as a corporate parent and has parental responsibility for care experienced students.
3. Many students considering further or higher education are not being given appropriate guidance and information about their rights, about the support they’re entitled to, or about the additional support offered by some institutions to those who declare their status as care experienced.
4. UCAS offers the “tick box” declaration scheme, but not all institutions are able to receive that information due to different systems.
5. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many care experienced young people are distrustful of the question due to the stigma and labeling of care experience.
6. Care experienced students may not be captured in provision for students from POLAR and SIMD (or equivalent) areas, as most children’s houses are situated outside these areas.
7. There are multiple and complex reasons for children & young people being placed in care, the vast majority of which relate to instability at home.
8. Care Leavers across the UK campaigning for better provision have referenced upwards of 50 placements throughout their childhood, this constant flux disrupts attachments and friendships made, feelings of security and inter-dependency and impacts on the educational attainment of those in care.

NEC Resolves

1. To mandate NUS to set up a network for care experienced students.
2. For NUS to introduce a rules review to National Conference 2017 embedding representation of care experienced students onto NEC.
3. For NUS to draw on existing research of the experience of care experienced students to create a toolkit, to empower students’ unions to lobby their institution to implement best practice including but not limited to:
4. Specific bursaries for care experienced students
5. Year-round accommodation offers for students with care experience
6. Additional support, advice and guidance for any student ticking the UCAS tick box
7. Specific reference in prospectuses to support available to any student who declares their care status on application
8. To work with all agencies involved in setting the policies for access to education, retention of students, support of students etc to ensure that the specific needs of care leavers are addressed in policy.

Motion 226 | Support the teaching of teachers to teach teachers to teach

NEC Believes

1. Numbers starting teacher training has dropped by 17% in the last five years.
2. Government is putting more restrictions on students and institutions in their recruitment process.
3. National recruitment caps have been applied to Post-Graduate ITE (Initial Teacher Education)
4. Caps were only made known to institutions a matter of days before the quota would be reached.
5. Due to the late notice in enforcing the caps, many potentially excellent teachers lost their places as there has not been time for administrators to put their details in the UCAS system after the schools and Universities could agree that offers could be made.
6. Government is prioritising a more 'in school', practical route to Teacher Training such as School Direct at the expense of the Higher Education.
7. Many of the programmes whereby the recruitment caps have been applied are as 'school led' as School Direct.

NEC Further Believes

1. Governments 'School Direct' initiative is taking away students' right to choose their route into Teacher Training.
2. These caps constrain student choice when applying for TT.
3. This is an example of market fixing which will have a negative impact on the recruitment levels, and the student experience of those going through the process.

NEC Resolves

1. NUS to protect HE Teacher Training recruitment from the government.
2. NUS to lobby the government to remove the caps placed on TT in HEIs
3. NUS needs to recognise and celebrate the value of the HE route into Teacher Training allowing students greater choice.

Motion 412 | Self-Certifying Extenuating Circumstances

NEC Believes

1. Many universities have extenuating circumstances procedures (ECPs) for students to alter their studies/course conditions (e.g. extensions of deadlines, exemption from tests, retaking exam at later date, etc.).
2. There are incidences where ECPs will require evidence.
3. ECPs often take up NHS time and resources when medical evidence is required.
4. ECPs can lead to students having to pay for a doctors letter as evidence (if it's been less than 7 days since study affected by extenuating circumstances).
5. UK employees only have to give evidence if they are ill for longer than 7 days (National Sick Leave Policy).

NEC Further Believes

1. ECPs can be strenuous for students.
2. ECPs should put as little pressure on students as possible.
3. ECPs take up the time and resources of academics.
4. ECPs should not put a greater strain on NHS services unless necessary.

5. Students should not have financial pressure placed on them in order for personal
6. Extenuating circumstances to be addressed.
7. ECPs can lead to students becoming more ill through the stress they cause.

NEC Resolves

1. To mandate NUS to lobby universities to introduce self-certifying ECPs for extensions
2. Less than 7 days (in line with the government's Sick Leave Policy).
3. To mandate the NUS to provide guidance to students' unions who wish to lobby their
4. Universities to introduce self-certifying ECPs for extensions less than 7 days.
5. To submit this motion to NUS National Conference 2016 priority ballot

Motion 414 | 75% of Funding, 100% of a Vote

NEC Believes

1. As young people over recent years we have seen cuts left, right and centre from our education system to support for the most vulnerable of our peers from maintenance grants, DSA and Support Groups. Now the government is attacking our health service provision and the reason for this; because we are young.
2. As a result of a funding alteration for health care provision, young people are being allocated significantly less than their older counterparts. With recent statistics suggesting "...75% of mental illness in adult life begins before the age of 18" (Mental Health Service Reform, 2016) and whilst at University "the majority of students experience mental health issues" (Guardian, 2015), why is it that younger people are considered as less in need of health care?
3. The blanket implementation of such a formula will leave young people without access to health care. Meaning anything from sexual health to mental health clinics will become inaccessible, and with the state of young peoples' health hitting an all time low; now is certainly not the time to be leaving us stranded.
4. We are entering into a world whereby seeing a health care professional is seen as a luxury and our health is second to the rest of society. The blanket implementation of such a formula will result in dangerous practice and young people unable to afford to attend a health centre.

NEC Further Believes

1. The guidance written by the NHS for the implementation of the Carr Hill formula states it should be 'reviewed on a case-by-case basis ensuring practices would not be unfairly disadvantaged by the changes with "special populations"' nor does it "unduly destabilise any practices" (NHS, 2014). However this is not the case, with some health centres seeing a massive 33% cut to funding, on the verge of closing and young people having to travel significant lengths in order to see a GP.
2. The weighted formula is based on 6 indices, which when multiplied against each other in a compounded manner results in a skewed calculation, the first of the indices is age/sex so a practice with a high proportion of young people receives huge funding cuts. As an example if all 6 indices were weighted equally a cut to a practice of 12,500 patients; 85% of which are students would go from 33% to 9%, a more manageable figure.
3. The PMS review aims to offer, "equality of opportunity", "supports fairer distribution of funding" and "reduces health inequalities". However its implementation at ground level to practices targeting a specific demographic does the exact opposite.

NEC Resolves

1. The Vice President Welfare should lobby Secretary of State for Health to hold CCGs to account when enforcing blanket rulings, resulting in dangerous practice not only for the young people but for the health care practitioners who are already stretched with resources and time.
2. The Vice President Welfare should lobby the Secretary of State for Health to implementation of the Carr-Hill formula.
3. The Vice President Welfare should run a national campaign on defending student healthcare and defending campus health centres.

Motion 415 | Make PrEP available on the NHS for Free

NEC Believes

1. There are now around 110,000 people living with HIV in the UK. Both men who sleep with men and black African communities are disproportionately affected by HIV.
2. Two European studies of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), PROUD1 and IPERGAY2, reported their results in February 2015. Both studies showed that PrEP was a highly effective method of HIV prevention, reducing new infections by 86%.

NEC Further Believes

1. Rates of new HIV infections are far too high. The NHS urgently needs to make PrEP available.
2. An NHS England process to evaluate PrEP is underway, but any decision to provide PrEP will not be implemented until late 2016 at the earliest. This is too long to wait.
3. We need to improve HIV prevention around the world and PrEP can help tackle unacceptable health inequalities.
4. Condom use has prevented tens of thousands of HIV infections. But levels of condom use are not high enough to bring HIV under control. Many people do not use condoms each time they have sex and every year there are thousands of new infections. PrEP could prevent new infections among some of those at greatest risk of acquiring HIV.
5. Condom use will remain a core strategy in HIV prevention. PrEP gives people who already find it difficult to consistently use condoms an additional way to protect their health.
6. PrEP can also be effective for heterosexual men and women. For example, a study in east Africa found that PrEP reduced infections within couples in which one partner is HIV positive by 75%.
7. PrEP allows someone to protect their own health, even if their partner refuses to use a condom. Because it is taken before sex, it does not rely on decision-making at the time of sex.
8. As well as preventing HIV infection, PrEP has additional benefits including reducing stress and anxiety about HIV transmission. It can enhance pleasure and intimacy, and limit sexual dysfunction.
9. Many people, including those who are able to use other HIV prevention options, won't need PrEP.
10. Cost-effectiveness studies show that PrEP will be affordable if it is provided to people with a significant risk of acquiring HIV. People living with HIV need to take lifelong treatment. PrEP consists of fewer drugs and people only need to take it during periods when they are at risk of HIV.

NEC Resolves

1. To actively campaign for earlier access to PrEP. The NHS must speed up its evaluation process and make PrEP available as soon as possible. Interim arrangements should be agreed now to provide PrEP to those at the highest risk of acquiring HIV.
2. To actively campaign for PrEP to be available to all people who are at high risk of acquiring HIV, whatever their gender or sexuality.

3. To actively campaign for the NHS to make PrEP available for free of charge on the NHS.
4. To actively campaign for PrEP to be made available to trans people.

Motion 417 | Doctors Notes & Medical Forms

NEC Believes

1. GP's do not have to charge fees for Doctors Notes because many GP's are not employed by the NHS and they have to cover their own costs
2. Currently Fit Notes to provide to employers are free under the National Health Service Acts and Social Security Acts
3. For a copy of health records on a computer, GP's can charge a maximum of £10, for a mixture of hand written and computer records they can charge a maximum of £50
4. Fitness Certificates fall outside the NHS GP Terms & Conditions therefore they have the freedom to charge whatever they want, this includes certificates to be given to education institutions in regards to absence from exams or missing a coursework deadline. This also includes Medical Forms to be given to institutions like
5. Camp America, BUNAC etc.... which require medical examinations before going on their placements

NEC Further Believes

1. If Fit notes for employers are free, then why are Medical Notes for Educational Institutions not?
2. That there is not enough government regulation on these fees and doctors have the freedom to choose their charges
3. That it is understandable that doctors surgeries have to cover their own costs however this should not be done at the expense of students who are trying to pass their course
4. That universities should offer some sort of reimbursement scheme for these charges if they continue to give the money back to students when they submit a note too them
5. It is a burden on Students' Finances to continue to pay these charges especially in a day and age when charges are on the increase and loans on the decrease
6. It is immoral for a doctor to charge a sick person a note just so they can get exam or coursework exception

NEC Resolves

1. For NUS To lobby the UK Government to regulate these charges and to make Medical Notes/Certificates for Educational Institutions Free, much like Fit Notes for Employers
2. For NUS to offer support to Unions for local lobbying action of their local GP to get them to lower or abolish the fees.
3. To ask educational institutions to offer some sort of reimbursement scheme for students who are genuinely ill and need to get the certificates so they can sit an exam late or get extensions on course work.
4. To make this an NUS Priority Campaign.

Motion 419 | Rights for Parents and Carers must extend to students

NEC Believes

1. Mature and part -time students often study alongside full time employment and/or additional caring responsibilities.

2. Many institutions do not have policy on student parents, and do not have provisions for reasonable adjustments to be made, for students with children and/or caring responsibilities regarding assessments and placements.

NEC Further Believes

1. Students who have parenting responsibilities should be supported by their institution and Students' Union in the same way as a worker would be supported by their trade union.
2. Childcare is extremely expensive and notoriously inflexible, particularly if contact hours or placements have been rearranged or cancelled.
3. That student parents who are breastfeeding must have specific provision and support, and/or access to the same provision and support offered to employees at our institutions, so they can maintain breastfeeding whilst returning to studies. This includes but is not limited to being given time and space to express milk, and storage for expressed milk.
4. That student parents should have allowances and flexibility similar to an employee for when their children are sick, have school holidays or teacher training days.
5. That PhD students must be entitled to maternity leave, pay and benefits which is the same as an employee of the institution.

NEC Resolves

1. To compile a 'Best Practice' report and toolkit for students' unions to campaign and lobby their institutions, to implement reasonable and fair adjustments for student parents.
2. To campaign for provisions on campuses for breastfeeding mums.
3. To work with similarly interested groups, including trade unions, to ensure maximum flexibility for student parents and for institution staff.
4. To provide resources and materials to support student unions to work with universities to develop student parent and care giver policies.
5. To work with trade unions to campaign for improved maternity & parental leave & pay rights for PhD students.

Motion 420 | We don't need a flux capacitor to see we need more capacity

NEC Believes

1. The membership of NUS includes at least ten Specialist Colleges who provide support for students with a wide range of learning difficulties and disabilities, this has steadily increased over recent years
2. Within the wider context of austerity, the Special Educational Needs reforms, and the devolution of money to local authorities there have been substantial cuts to funding for Specialist Colleges
3. These cuts in funding have led to a lack of choices for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities in terms of where and what they study

NEC Further Believes

1. The restrictions on funding have resulted in students being offered inappropriate placements which are unable to meet their specific learning and access needs leading to a high risk of failure
2. Students with learning difficulties and disabilities deserve the right to the same choices as their mainstream peers in Further Education
3. The voice of students with learning difficulties and disabilities deserves to be heard at a national level

4. The Association of National Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC) has launched a campaign (A Right Not A Fight) to raise awareness of funding issues for specialist provision

NEC Resolves

1. NUS must be increasingly aware as an organisation, that there are specific issues facing students with learning difficulties and disabilities within specialist FE provision as well as those within General FE
2. NUS should affiliate to the Right Not A Fight campaign
3. NUS Welfare zone should work specifically with students in specialist colleges for those with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure they are supported and enabled to raise awareness of their specific issues and to be heard in the right places
4. NUS VP Welfare must engage with the needs of specialist colleges in terms of supporting participation and collaboration with the organization.