

Motions and Amendments submitted to NEC

Author	Motions and amendments submitted by individual NEC members
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Motions Submitted to NEC

Motion 1: Preparing to make next year's NSS Boycott even harder, better, faster, stronger

Proposed by:	Sahaya James
Seconded by:	Anastazja Oppenheim, Deborah Hermanns, Omar Raii, Rachel O'Brien, Shelly Asquith, Amelia Horgan, Noorulann Shahid, Hareem Ghani
Committees:	NEC

NEC Believes:

1. The Higher Education & Research Bill has been passed by Parliament.
2. Our campaign – including lobbying, protests and the NSS boycott – secured a number of concessions, including representation in the Office for Students; requiring universities to publish data on attainment gaps; improved protections for students from course closures and other risks; expanded Access Agreements covering participation and retention; requiring universities to facilitate student voter registration; heightened scrutiny on new providers; and delaying the link between TEF and fees to 2020.
3. On campuses where SUs took up the NSS boycott, it had substantial success, with good proportions of students responding to the call and a number of institutions and many departments dropping below the crucial 50% threshold rendering the data unusable. This shows that where it was promoted, the campaign appealed to students and mobilised them.

NEC Further Believes:

1. We will not simply accept the passing of these damaging reforms – we will have to fight to repeal and reverse them as part of our pursuit of a free, progressively funded education service run in the interests of students, workers and communities, rather than governed by private profit and market chaos.
2. As part of our wider strategy, this year's NSS boycott was a powerful tool for spreading the word among students about the reforms and engaging them in action against them, and helped to raise the profile of the issue which strengthened our efforts to win concessions and amendments.
3. As we maintain the NSS boycott until the reforms are repealed, we should learn from what has worked well and share best practice in order to maximise the effectiveness of the campaign as it progresses.
4. The purposes of the NSS boycott – as part of a multi-pronged strategy including lobbying and protest – are to spread awareness of the reforms and engage students in action that raises the issue's profile, withholds data that is needed for the government to implement the TEF, and, by disrupting a mechanism that is crucial to both the future TEF, and the current management of the HE market, creates leverage and pressure that strengthens our ability to make the government backtrack.

NEC Resolves:

1. To begin preparation for the 2018 round of the NSS boycott now.
2. To aim to be signing up final year boycott pledges from the start of the HE autumn term.
3. To organise a prize for the students of the institution that attains the lowest NSS participation rate (e.g. engaging sympathetic artists to put on a gig).
4. To look at the campuses where the boycott was most effective and gather the lessons from the excellent work of our members, and share these lessons so that other unions can adopt them. This should include incorporating those lessons into workshops for activists and officers, NUS' 2017 Officer Development Programme, and toolkits available to unions and student campaign groups.
5. To use these tools to encourage and assist more unions to get involved in the boycott in order to make our collective action as powerful and effective as possible.

Motion 2: Commemorating the slave trade and its role in our education system

Proposed by:	Aadam Muuse
Seconded by:	Noha Abu El Magd, Noorulann Shahid, Hareem Ghani, Amelia Horgan, Sahaya James, Mahamid Ahmed, Malia Bouattia
Committees:	NEC

NEC Believes:

1. That this motion was brought to National Conference 2017 by the Black Students Campaign but was not heard due to time constraints.
2. 25th March is marked the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
3. Britain played an active role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade for centuries, the ill-gotten gains of which formed the basis of much of its wealth, industrial advances – and those of its universities - today.
4. Britain's role – including those of our institutions – is often underplayed and omitted from the curriculum; the discussion here more often centres the role of the now-USA.

NEC Further Believes:

1. There is strong undercurrent of apologism and historical amnesia regarding Britain's role in the Slave Trade and colonialism.
2. This has allowed for a resurgent nostalgia for British imperialism – a recent YouGov poll found 44% of respondents as being 'proud' of Britain's history of colonialism, with 41% believing it to be a 'good thing'.
3. This is despite British imperialism and the Transatlantic Slave Trade representing among the greatest – if not the greatest – atrocities in human history.
4. 2015-2024 has been designated the International Decade for People of African Descent.

NEC Resolves:

1. To encourage SUs to commemorate International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and provide resources to SUs to do this.
2. To campaign for greater acknowledgement of the roles of British universities in the Slave Trade and colonialism.
3. To provide support for local student campaigns aiming to expose and challenge these colonial legacies, and the historical whitewashing by universities.

Motion 3: Kick Racism Out of NUS

Proposed by: Hareem Ghani

Seconded by: Aadam Muuse, Noha Abu El Magd, Mahamid Ahmed, Noorulann Shahid

Committees:

NEC Believes:

1. This motion was originally written by the then NUS UK Women's Officer, Susuana Amoah, in 2015, it has been submitted in light on the ongoing issue of racism within our movement.
2. The representation of black students in students' union leadership has improved with the help of the black students campaign. However, student officers who are black, including those in NUS often face racism while running to be elected and within their roles.
3. Black members of the NUS leadership have often faced racial abuse by members of the student movement and by the media, often feeling a lack of support by the rest of the leadership and organisation in general.
4. Members of NUS leadership and NEC who are black are often automatically presented as "radical" (in a negative sense), or unrepresentative of "ordinary students".
5. There have been numerous NUS events in the past year with all white panels and this is unacceptable since we would heavily criticise all-male panels.
6. Black students officers across the UK have been discouraged from attending important NUS events, being told that it is not necessary for them to attend, which in turn limits their campaigning to improve the representation of black students in the movement.
7. Many Black members of the NUS leadership do not have faith in the systems in place to raise their concerns about racism.
8. The chair of the liberation, equality and diversity Group, which is appointed by the NUS president, has been white for at least the past four years [at the time of the motion's original writing in 2015].

NEC Further Believes:

1. We need to deal with racism head on; diversity and liberation is something that we should be proud to actively champion, not just talk about.
2. We can't preach liberation and intersectionality if we do not practice it ourselves.
3. NUS provides liberation and privilege education within officer training to sabbatical officers but not to its own officers.
4. A sense of assumed knowledge means the NUS officers sometimes go on to replicate the same oppressive behaviours that we challenge with our own liberation campaigns.
5. With student leadership across the UK still predominantly white, NUS officers should be finding ways to welcome more black students at events not exclude them.
6. The hostility created but this atmosphere can a negative impact on the mental health of Black Students within NUS

NEC Resolves:

1. To establish an official NUS Black officers group - chaired by the Black Students Officer - for elected officers with NUS who Identify as black according to the black students' campaign definition.
2. For NUS FTOs to acknowledge and respond to the concerns about racism as they are raised by the NUS Black Officers Group.
3. For all NUS officer training to include liberation, equality & diversity education, with content co-created by liberation officers.
4. To change the Liberation Equality Diversity group so it has 2 co-conveners with one reserved Black place.
5. For the Liberation equality diversity group conveners to be elected by NEC.

Motion 4: Demilitarise Education! #StudyWarNoMore

Proposed by:	Aadam Muuse
Seconded by:	Noha Abu El Magd, Amelia Horgan, Shelly Asquith, Hareem Ghani, Noorulann Shahid, Sahaya James, Ana Oppenheim
Committees:	NEC

NEC Believes:

1. That this motion was brought to National Conference 2017 by KCLSU, Black Students' Campaign, Reading University Students' Union, SOAS Students' Union, Oxford University Students' Union and Goldsmiths Student Union, and Surrey Students' Union but was not heard due to time constraints.
2. By purchasing research, services & providing sponsorship, the influence of the military-industrial complex in HE is indicative of the general trend towards commodification of a neoliberal academia.
3. KCL invests over £1.5 million in firms that supply weapons & their components to Israel and Saudi Arabia, such as Elbit Systems and General Electric¹.
4. Manchester University has recently signed a partnership with BAE Systems, which has sold Eurofighter jets to Saudi Arabia. These jets are being used in the Saudi-led coalition's devastating bombing in Yemen².
5. BAE Systems, the UK's biggest arms company, made over £25bn in sales in 2015.
6. These companies are often also engaged, directly or indirectly, in the arms trade providing weapons and equipment used to fuel warfare in the Global South.
7. That the arms trade represents a serious threat to sustainability and the environment more generally.
8. The urgent need for more equipment for the NHS and production of new technologies to meet the challenges of climate change.
9. The history of labour-movement led "conversion plans", such as the 1974 Lucas Plan, drawn up by workers at the Lucas Aerospace plant, which provided a detailed plan for converting the arms factory to produce hybrid cars, hydroelectric turbines and kidney dialysis machines instead of warplanes.
10. That Britain's manufacturing industry should be converted to socially useful production along the lines of what the Lucas Plan advocated

NEC Further Believes:

1. Military involvement at UK universities is more rampant than generally acknowledged, with a disturbing lack of transparency and accountability³.
2. Universities invest in the arms trade / border security and detention industry, making us complicit in the abuse and deaths of migrants and in creating the technologies that create refugees and enforce borders.
3. Arms technology companies often actively recruit students for graduate roles.
4. These companies target certain fields for recruitment – such as engineering and other STEM backgrounds – in which Black students are well represented
5. There are few more sordid practices than recruiting students to work on the very technology used to attack and bombard their home nations.
6. This has led to a culture of militarisation on campus.
7. It is students' responsibility to point out the hypocrisy of welcoming refugees on our campuses while being complicit in the destruction, displacement and detention of black, brown and migrant communities.

¹ Military involvement in UK universities, 2007, CAAT

² www.studywarnomore.org.uk/documents/KCL.pdf; www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/saudi-arabiabombing-civilian-targets-in-yemen-is-helping-grow-bae-systems-sales-says-amnesty-a6882221.html

³ www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/manchester-signs-partnership-agreement-with-bae-systems

8. Students have a long tradition of campaigning against dirty alliances by their institutions with arms companies
9. Our vision for a free and liberated education must include breaking ties of complicity between our institutions with companies developing the technology visiting warfare and oppression abroad.

NEC Resolves:

1. To campaign for full divestment from arms manufacturers including, but not limited to, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's list of the top 100 arms-producing companies⁴.
2. To lobby universities for transparency, accountability & democracy in their investments.
3. NUS to establish a central register of all university ties with military funding, connections and usages.
4. NUS to fund resources such as a campaign guide/handbook to support activists who are setting up local Demilitarise campaigns.
5. NUS/SU officers to receive training on the connections between universities, the arms trade and the border security and detention industry.
6. To instruct officers to refrain from any co-operation with BAE systems, of any kind.
7. Works with Campaign Against Arms Trade and War on Want and support student campaigns against the Arms Trade and institutional relationships with arms companies
8. To promote the history of labour-movement conversion plans such as the Lucas Plan.

Motion 5: Free Periods 3.0

Proposed by:	Hareem Ghani
Seconded by:	Noha Abu El Magd, Noorulann Shahid, Ana Oppenheim, Sahaya James
Committees:	NEC

NEC Believes:

1. At National Conference 2017 a motion was passed called Free Periods. Its resolves were "To include sanitary products, including but not limited to tampons, menstrual cups and sanitary pads, into the NUS Purchasing Consortium"
2. Sanitary products are already included in the NUS Purchasing Consortium, excluding menstrual cups.
3. In 2016 NUS Women's campaign launched #FreePeriods campaign and resources in collaboration with Newcastle Feminist Society on Period Friday Day.
4. As part of the Free Periods campaign a specific page was created on the NUS website to enable students' union to purchase sanitary products easier and download resources on running local Free Periods campaigns.
5. The Free Periods campaign was launched as result of motion on Free Periods was proposed and passed at NUS Women's Conference in 2015
6. The work on free periods is clearly outlined in the Women's Officer Report NEC February 2016
7. The passing of this motion has lead to widely spread National media articles such as "NUS to offer free tampons to all female students across the UK" which include quotes from the proposing and summation speeches of the motion.
8. This motion at National Conference was proposed by a member of NEC (2015-17).

NEC Further Believes:

⁴ www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/saudi-arabia-led-coalition-has-used-uk-manufactured-cluster-bombs-yemennew-evidence Behind Closed Doors: Military Influence, Commercial Pressures and the Compromised University, SGR, www.sgr.org.uk/ArmsControl/BehindClosedDoors_jun08.pdf
www.sipri.org/publications/2016/sipri-fact-sheets/sipritop-100-arms-producing-and-military-services-companies-2015

1. NUS NEC members should make an effort to read NUS Liberation reports even though they cannot hold liberation officers to account at NEC
2. NUS NEC members should challenge misinformation about the work of liberation campaigns rather than generate it
3. NEC members should consult with liberation campaigns before putting forwards motions that are related to work that liberation campaigns lead on
4. Members of NUS leadership who are not liberation officers should be discouraged for taking credit for work lead primarily by liberation campaigns unless they have collaborated with them or agreed on other terms beforehand
5. NUS should aim to improve promotion of the Free Periods Campaign.

NEC Resolves:

1. That the NUS issue a public statement about the motion to conference, the existing work on Free Periods and the misinformation around both
2. For this statement to also include Further Believes 1, 2 and the resolves of this motion, and also links to #FreePeriods campaign resources.
3. To provide free sanitary products at all NUS offices for employees, guests and volunteers.
4. To work towards provide free sanitary products at all NUS events with accommodation.
5. NUS Services to investigate partnering with Mooncup

Motion 6: Fair Representation on Democratic Procedures Committee

Proposed by:	Amelia Horgan
Seconded by:	Hareem Ghani, Noha Abu El Magd, Noorulann Shahid
Committees:	NEC

NEC Believes:

1. At National Conference 2014, Conference voted to support the principle of fair representation - that all delegations to NUS conference, and NUS's elected committees are made up of 50% women (rounded down).
2. That Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) was not included in the original motion.
3. At National Conference 2017, a motion was proposed that would extend fair representation to DPC however there was not time to hear this motion.
4. That the current DPC does not contain 50% women.
5. That Motion 601 passed at National Conference 2017 requires a re-drafting of the NUS rules, which will be presented and voted on once complete.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That fair representation has had a positive effect on our movement, increasing women's participation within NUS and locally.
2. That the principles of fair representation should be extended across all of NUS's democratic work.

NEC Resolves:

1. To request that fair representation for DPC is included in the re-drafting of the Rules

Motion 7: Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Proposed by:	Aadam Muuse
Seconded by:	Noha Abu El Magd, Malia Bouattia, Amelia Horgan, Hareem Ghani, Mahamid Ahmed
Committees:	NEC

NEC Believes:

1. That since 2005 over 170 Palestinian civil society organisations, including every single Palestinian students' union have called for civil society around the world to impose Boycotts, Divestments, and Sanctions (BDS) on Israel and companies complicit in its on-going violations of international law and Palestinian Human Rights⁵.
2. That the student movement has a long and important history of international solidarity and of fighting against injustices.
3. That the ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine, Israel's multitude of flagrant human rights and international law violations, its unaccountability to the international community is abhorrent and should be condemned.
4. That our own government is complicit in these human rights abuses, for example its supplying Israel with weaponry used against the Palestinians during 2014's 'Operation Protective Edge'⁶
5. That over 30 SUs across the UK have passed policy in support of BDS or BDS tactics, as have NUS, NUS-USI, NUS Black Students Campaign, NUS Disabled Students Campaign, NUS Postgraduate Campaign.
6. That BDS is also supported by TUC, Unite the Union, NUT and UCU
7. That the tactic of global boycotts effectively assisted the successful struggle against South African Apartheid.
8. That international solidarity should be conducted on the terms set by the Palestinian people, as per the BDS campaign.
9. That the Israeli government is feeling the pressure from international BDS, and that it is an effective method of grassroots political action and the companies Veolia and G4S have announced that they will cease all economic activities that profit from Israel's on-going occupation of Palestine⁷.
10. That on April 17th, more than 1,5000 Palestinians in eight Israeli prisons launched a hunger strike, demanding better living conditions and medical treatment⁸.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That while the NUS has live policy supporting solidarity with Palestine and affiliating the Boycott, Divestment Sanctions Movement, this policy, and indeed the right of our movement to stand in solidarity across borders has been challenged and undermined this year.
2. That a motion re-affirming our commitment to solidarity, and BDS was submitted to National Conference 2017 by SOAS SU, Goldsmiths SU, and the Black Students Campaign, but this motion was not heard due to time constraints.
3. There have been a spate of recent concerted efforts to overturn democratically voted BDS policies through legal threats, intimidation and lobbying by external organisations of universities and SUs
4. Taking lead from this, the government announced moves last year to 'outlaw' procurement boycotts by local councils, explicitly targeting Israel-related boycotts
5. This year they announce further measures to "stop [town] councils from introducing restrictions on the companies and countries they use – particularly by introducing boycotts on goods from Israel."
6. That BDS policy across the UK has been repeatedly overturned by unelected trustee boards

⁵ www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-35980195

⁶ www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/britain-still-arming-israel-despite-fear-weapons-will-be-used-against-gaza-10357621.html

⁷ www.middleeastmonitor.com/20150829-veolia-completes-withdrawal-from-israel-in-victory-for-bds-campaign/ bdsmovement.net/news/bds-security-company-g4s-announces-plans-exit-israeli-market-0

⁸ edition.cnn.com/2017/04/27/middleeast/salt-water-challenge-palestinian-prisoners-strike-trnd/

7. That this year, Students Unions were left confused, and in some cases, silenced, by the Charity Commission, who have been investigating SUs with BDS policies.
8. That we should defend our right to protest, including on issues international solidarity, and resist attempts to depoliticise our movement.

NEC Resolves:

1. To reaffirm NUS' commitment to BDS.
2. To continue to support local BDS campaigns initiated by students.
3. To lobby institutions and unions to divest from BDS target companies
4. To issue guidance to student unions and student groups about their legal rights and Charity Law alongside the NUS' BDS handbook.
5. To resist attacks on NUS' democratic functions, and on our inherently political nature.
6. To publicly support the Palestinian Expo held by Friends of Al-Aqsa, which takes place on the 8th and 9th July 2017⁹.
7. To raise awareness of the current prisoners hunger strike, and issue a statement of solidarity with the hunger-strikers.

Motion 8: Institutionalised Islamophobia

Proposed by:	Noha Abu El Magd
Seconded by:	Mahamid Ahmed, Noorulan Shahid, Zamzam Ibrahim, Ali Milani, Hassun El Zafar, Hannah Dualeh, Hareem Ghani, Aadam Muuse
Committees:	NEC

NEC Believes:

1. Islamophobia is on the rise across wider society, however there is little acknowledgement of the institutionalised forms and practices of racialised and gendered islamophobia
2. Malia Bouattia was elected the first Muslim president of the NUS and has since then received a torrent of racist, islamophobic and sexist abuse which have included threats to her life
3. Wrongful and irresponsible reporting and misrepresentation of events taking place at NUS NEC meeting has lead to incidents
4. The NUS IRR specifically states the concern in which the media gave 'partial or highly selective coverage of elections and motions' at the national conference 2016 and reporting of the election announcements using words such as 'shock and controversy'. This rhetoric was magnified by comments made on social media
5. The NUS IRR also noted worries regarding the ability of NUS to respond and manage such incidents and that students are unaware of resources available to them
6. Muslim students, sabbatical officers and FTOs across the student movement are subjects of double standards of scrutiny and media attention
7. Muslim students and officers running in elections and volunteering for NUS have suffered considerable damage to their mental, physical and emotional well-being as a result despite leading on some of the most important and progressive work undertaken
8. Use of islamophobic and racialised language when referring to Muslim and racialised students by the leadership of NUS has gone unchecked despite concerns raised by Muslim students and officers repeatedly
9. This came to a head with candidates at National Conference 2017 running openly Islamophobic election campaigns

⁹ www.foa.org.uk/events/palestine-expo/

9. Sections and zones of NUS have failed to critically engage with and support Muslim students, the burden of which has fallen to liberation campaigns

10. Symptomatic of NUS's institutionalised failure towards Muslim students is the fact that NUS events were held on Eid Ul adha, Eid Ul Fitr and Ramadan.

NEC Further Believes:

1. The treatment of Muslim volunteers has caused many Muslim students to re-consider getting involved in NUS
2. NUS and elected full-time officers need to do more for Muslim students and officers beyond tokenistic practices and lip service
3. There must be a commitment of both resources from NUS campaigns and better conduct from officers and volunteers, which includes behaviour on social media
4. The Women's Campaign this year has run campaigns on Gendered Islamophobia and shed much light on the experiences of Muslim women within the movement.
5. There is a pressing need to highlight the experiences of Muslim students more broadly, including Islamophobia/experiences of anti-Muslim racism but also when engaging with NUS and student democratic structures more broadly

NEC Resolves:

1. To mandate the VP Soc and Cit and VP welfare to allocate resources to the NUS Black Students Campaign and NUS Women's Campaign to conduct research into the experience of Muslim students to be conducted in collaboration with FOSIS
2. To introduce training on islamophobia and implicit bias into NUS Lead and change programs to be directed by NUS BSC and FOSIS
3. To mandate the NUS VP UD to work on an action plan specifically to target institutionalised islamophobia within NUS and training for FTOs
4. To ensure that officers and volunteers are sufficiently held to account for the use of racialised and islamophobic tropes such as the 'far left', 'extremist' in reference to Muslim students and students of colour
5. To issue a statement in light of this motion to re-assure Muslim students across the movement of NUS's commitment to tackling this issue