nus NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Priority Zone Proposal

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Proposal:	**Liberate Education**
Submitted by:	National Executive Council

Conference believes

1. Post-16 education is facing a sustained, intense assault from the Government in terms of access, quality and scope.
2. The Government's area reviews in FE have caused some colleges to shut, while cuts have led to job losses
3. The Higher Education and Research Bill represents, even in amended form, a significant intensification of marketization.
4. Increasing fees is detrimental to the accessibility of education.
5. The new regime ushered in by the Higher Education Bill, linking TEF scores to recruitment numbers, is likely to disproportionately affect international students.
6. The government's refusal to remove international students from immigration quotas means we can expect more raids, detention, and deportations of students this year.
7. Brexit campaigns, run on anti-migration platforms, and the aftermath of the referendum have caused higher levels of insecurity and violence for migrant students and black students.
8. Securitization of education targets both international and Muslim students through the Prevent programme.
9. Accessibility to education is determine by the right to study free of intimidation and harassment, a right not afforded to women students and staff members who face endemic harassment and abuse.
10. These factors combine to result in record levels of student mental health problems, in the context of cuts to or inadequate mental health support.

Conference further believes

1. We're facing a crisis in the education sector for students and staff alike.
2. This crisis has been many years in the making, emerging from the cumulative effects of repeated reforms, leaving education under-funded and marketised.
3. When discussing teaching quality and access, we must go beyond the limited framework proposed by Government – one which emphasizes a damaging role for private, profit-seeking companies.
4. NUS must propose a radically different vision for a free, liberated, and truly accessible education for all.
5. All students deserve access to education free from harassment, intimidation or violence, regardless of background.
6. Meeting the challenges outlined is a key priority for students across the UK and will require organisational unity regionally and across nations.

Conference resolves

1. To campaign with unions and grassroots groups for better and fairer funding
2. To produce materials putting forward a vision of publicly-funded and accessible education
3. To work with other organisations to nationally resist attacks on migrants and international students and forward a progressive case for migration.
4. Work with local unions on anti-hate crime work, including local reporting facilities and the creation of national guidelines, networks and resources.
5. To produce materials to support students' unions to campaign against sexual violence and support survivors.
6. To launch awareness campaigns about the student mental health crisis and support students campaigning on the issue.
7. To share information and ideas, and support efforts across campuses to liberate the curriculum.
8. To encourage student unions to work with local campaign groups and union to join their work with those of the community around them.
9. To deepen the regional networks to achieve better unity of action.