nus NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Union Development Zone Proposal

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Proposal:	Civic Engagement through political education
Submitted by:	Union Development Zone committee

Conference believes

1. Young people are repeatedly affected with the impact of policy decisions they do not agree with. There are many recent examples including unwanted reforms to education, the UK leaving the European Union and spiralling costs of living.
2. This is because young people are not involved enough in our national democracy. In addition to when young people are actively shut out and not given a vote, we know much of this comes from lack of confidence.
3. Confidence means understanding the issues and understanding how participation can make a difference.
4. Older generations are likely to have this kind of confidence through experience.
5. Students' unions are uniquely positioned to level the playing field, providing an education in politics and power to a generation of young people.

Conference resolves

1. NUS should aim to offer an accredited course in political literacy to every under 24 year-old in education or training.
2. NUS should double efforts to provide excellent leadership opportunities to young people, including encouraging democratic communities in student clubs, societies and other groups.
3. NUS should seek curriculum change so that every tertiary education course will reflect on and react to live local and national political issues.
4. NUS should invest in student media with regular, quality coverage of local political affairs.
5. NUS should review how young people respond to the language of politics and power.
6. All of this activity must only be delivered by offering products and services to students' unions as the members of NUS. NUS will not impose one-size-fits-all initiatives.
7. 70% of investment and activity should be targeted towards FE students' unions. This is representative of NUS membership and will be a more effective use of resources.