

Emergency Motions

Emergency Motion 1

Submitted by: National Executive Council

Conference Believes:

1. Prime Minister Theresa May announced a snap General Election on April 18th.
2. The General Election will take place on June 8th.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Many students across the UK will be concerned about the implications of this election, which will effectively be a referendum on the terms of Brexit.
2. Theresa May's government has already made clear that its approach to leaving the EU is harsher border controls and a deepening regime of cuts and privatisation of public services – from education to the NHS.
3. Now is a moment for our movement to come together, to hold politicians to account, and to put forward the demands of students across the UK.
4. The manifesto will focus on the key issues that our members have put forward in the last year: the rights of international students, the safeguarding of education and funding agreements, and a proper investment strategy into our public services.
5. The coming months will be crucial for our movement. As well as making sure students come out and register to vote, we will need to use our national networks to influence the outcome of the elections.

Conference Resolves:

1. To communicate with all students in our NUS Extra Card database on polling day, reminding them to vote.
2. To collaborate with Students' Unions to hold hustings for candidates across the UK.
3. To organise national days of action, encouraging voter registration.
4. To work with student accommodation providers to facilitate registration drives.
5. To write to all political parties making clear our demands, and hold mass lobbies of prospective candidates.

Amendment 1a


Submitted By: UWLSU

Conference Believes:

1. On April 18th Teresa May announced a snap election for June 8th
2. June is a time when campuses are quite, halls are empty and students are back home and working.
3. Millions of students are already missing from the electoral roll due to individual registration
4. We must not let students be sidelined.
5. NUS needs to show strategic leadership now about mobilising students.

Conference Further Believes:

1. NUS' strategy must respect the diversity amongst our members not seeking to be divisive or partisan but focussing on the issues.

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2. Conference policy should be turned into a manifesto for students and presented to the major parties
 3. NUS must harness the power of digital to transform the landscape of this election.
 4. We should help students to register to vote at both their term time and home addresses.
 5. We should launch our largest ever virtual GOTV campaign
 6. It is vital that we hold politicians to account for the decisions they have made and the votes they have cast.
 7. We need a strategy for first 100 days of a new government to get our priorities to the top of their agenda.

Conference Resolves:

1. To divert resource to running the biggest voter registration drive in NUS' history.
2. To support SUs to seek meetings with candidates across the political spectrum and to track results so that we can apply pressure to local candidates.
3. To mobilise every NUS committee member on election day, with people in every city supporting GOTV activities.
4. To publish a guide to each party's policies on the issues which affect students: Brexit, Education funding, Housing and Welfare.
5. To publish student guides on voting process.
6. To publish toolkits for students on how to see the voting record of MPs.

Emergency Motion 2

CN: Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault and Rape


Submitted by: NUS Scotland

Conference Believes:

1. There is a systemic societal problem with preventing, tackling, and convicting, sexual assault and rape.
2. NUS has a moral and ethical responsibility to campaign on this issue, but in order to be taken credibly as a campaigning force it is essential that we have our own house in order
3. On March 24th 2017, two days before NUS Women's Conference, an anonymous social media account began trolling the event hashtag with wildly inaccurate and inflammatory victim-blaming and rape apologist statements.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Approximately 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped in England and Wales alone every year. These figures include assaults by penetration and attempts.
2. Nearly half a million adults are sexually assaulted in England and Wales each year
3. 1 in 5 women aged 16 - 59 has experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 16
4. Only around 15% of those who experience sexual violence choose to report to the police
5. Approximately 90% of those who are raped know the perpetrator prior to the offence
6. The conviction rate in 2015-16 was 7.5% of recorded allegations
7. The above statistics clearly demonstrate the chasm which exists between survivors' experiences, and justice.
8. This now-deleted social media account referenced in CB3 used the event hashtag to push an anti-survivor narrative, targeted specifically at the women's campaign which has always been the part of NUS which carries out high profile work against sexual violence.
9. This action enforced a power dynamic which attempted to silence, or undermine, survivors.
10. It is unacceptable that perpetrators of sexual violence are able to infiltrate both our social media and physical spaces unchecked.

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11. NUS states that we have a zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment, but our current mechanisms to protect victims where an incident has occurred at an NUS event – physically or online - or where the perpetrator and victim are NUS members, are inadequate.

Conference Resolves:

1. To reaffirm our commitment to zero tolerance for sexual harassment.
2. To reaffirm our values; that we believe the victim.
3. To immediately convene a taskforce to critically assess and review the NUS processes for reporting code of conduct violations, with a specific focus on effectively supporting survivors of sexual assault and rape, ensuring the survivor's needs are prioritised, and removing perpetrators from NUS membership without relying on the criminal justice system.