

NEC Live Policy 2017 - 2020

Purpose of this document

This document contains all the policy currently in effect for the NUS NEC until National Conference 2019.

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 2017 will lapse at the end of National Conference 2020.

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 democracy@nus.org.uk.

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Live Policy from NEC meetings 2016/17

Meeting date: 18 July 2016

International Co-operation with Student Organisations – The Bergen Declaration

NEC believes

1. In an increasingly globalised world, where networks and friendships cross continents, activism knows no borders, and experiences- as well as struggles – are increasingly shared. Uniting with a global student movement offers us an opportunity to expand our networks and partnerships.
2. The European students' union have been facilitating the development of a global student movement, which began by bringing together representatives from around the world to a global student voice seminar in May. The unions (from South America, North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific) used a process of facilitated debate and discussion to develop a framework of collective values and fundamental rights/principles they believe education should be based on, which then formed the basis of the writing of a declaration.
3. The declaration gives a collective voice to the demands of students globally- that education is a public good, and so all students have the right to access it, with fundamental rights regarding their ability to organise and be represented within it, and that our education system cannot be separated from the society within which it exists.
4. This document will serve as the beginning of a long term process, bringing together students from around the world to cooperate to defend the principles laid out in the declaration – whether through formal or informal structures, or simply cooperation and communication.

NEC further believes

1. We know we're more powerful when we're united, and even more so when our collectivism and collaboration stretches beyond regional boundaries
2. By joining NUS' from all corners of the globe in the signing of the declaration, we are making a statement of solidarity and commitment to the shared values, and taking an opportunity to join the increasing number of student movements in partnership in tackling shared issues.
3. Signing up to the declaration enables NUS UK to be part of a movement which will unite in common struggles, and adds our voice to a global campaign.

NEC resolves

1. To join the other national and regional unions in adopting the Bergen declaration, and committing to join the global student movement.¹

¹ Notes: You can read Beth Button (Previous NUS Wales president and ESU exec committee member's) blog on the declaration, and the document itself here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/uniting-for-a-global-student-voice>

ARAF Motion

NEC believes

1. Racism and fascism are rising across society.
2. ARAF committee is defined as a special committee of the NEC, constituted under the NUS Rules.
3. There is currently no clause, provision or process in the Rules as to the composition of ARAF committee, other than the selection of convenors by NEC.
4. This includes a lack of any reserved/guaranteed places on the committee for any member of any liberation group, and/or any marginalised group of students.
5. Therefore, ARAF committee could theoretically be convened by members who do not define into any liberation group, and/or any group affected by racism/fascism. Conversely, in 2013 the ARAF committee was co-convened by two Black members of the NEC.
6. This unclear/inconsistent process for selecting ARAF convenors/committee has long been contentious. Controversy was further ignited following the motion 3:ARAF Convenors, exacerbated by misunderstanding/confusion about the existing process.
7. There are demands for greater resources for, and a new system of deciding, the committee. This also indicates that the system of appointing for convenors is inadequate.
8. ARAF campaign has a crucial role to play in this time of rising intolerance, and should be a point of political unity across NUS to enable it to be as effective as possible.
9. In supporting ARAF we strive to uphold the principles of liberation, equality, intersectionality, self-determination.

NEC further believes

1. The historic lack of support given to the ARAF campaign has not allowed for it to function to its full potential, so relying on the status quo is untenable.
2. Many Jewish students were at the forefront of disaffiliation campaigns due to concerns of antisemitism in our movement.
3. Despite only four SUs voting to disaffiliate from NUS, over 13,000 students voted to disaffiliate, with many highlighting concerns of antisemitism in our movement and it's vital NUS acknowledges this.
4. The controversy also highlighted the importance of NEC to consult with those affected by its decisions rather than rushing into mistakes.



5. Therefore, it is important to open up a consultation on the ARAF committee system among those affected by its work before deciding this new system, to ensure that its work is as inclusive as possible of those groups of students affected by racism and/or fascism.
6. NEC cannot change the NUS Rules, but should facilitate a wider consultation into how the ARAF committee/campaign should function in future.

NEC resolves

1. NEC to elect an ARAF committee comprised of 7 NEC members
2. The committee will have reserved places for:
 - a. BSO and BSC NEC
 - b. A Jewish member
 - c. A Muslim member
 - d. an LGBT+ member
 - e. an International/migrant member
 - f. one open place for any member
3. The committee will also work with representatives of student organisations who are affected by racism and/or fascism such as UJS and FOSIS
4. Facilitate a consultation with: 2016/17 ARAF committee, Faith & Belief committee, NUS Liberation and International Students' Campaigns into a new system for selecting ARAF committee.
5. Newly formed committee will be tasked – alongside its normal activities – with reviewing the way ARAF campaign functions, to be discussed on the NEC and brought to National Conference 2017.

Meeting date: 13 September 2016

Islamophobia Awareness Month

NEC believes

1. That November is Islamophobia awareness month. Which aims to deconstruct and challenge some of the stereotypes about Islam and Muslims; and create spaces in which we can discuss and practically address Islamophobia. The month-long campaign will see activities and projects throughout the UK and Europe.
2. Islamophobia or anti-Muslim hatred and attacks is reaching worrying heights in Britain and across Europe.



3. The figures from the Metropolitan Police on anti-Muslim racist hate crime have consistently risen since they began recording - and those are only figures within London².
4. The majority of victims of violent and verbal Islamophobic attacks tend to be women.

NEC further believes

1. That the Muslim communities, specifically Muslim women, are the most economically disadvantaged in Britain.
2. The NUS must take a firm stance against all Islamophobic incidents and conduct internal investigations if and when they occur.

NEC resolves

1. To join the national Islamophobia Awareness Month (#IAM) campaign.
2. To support Students' Union's in localised events and activity surrounding #IAM.

All lives won't matter, until #BlackLivesMatter

NEC believes

1. Since 1990 there have been over 1560 deaths in police custody³ or following police contact, but zero convictions
2. On 5th August 2016 there was a nationwide #Shutdown called by Black Lives Matter UK
3. Since then, there has been a police crackdown on protestors; from restrictive police bail to charges being brought against some others

NUS further believes

1. That Black Lives Matter UK is necessary, as recent cases like those of Mzee Mohammed and Dalian Atkinson show
2. The disproportionate crackdown on the protestors is yet another example of how our right to protest is being threatened

NEC resolves

1. To release a statement of solidarity with BLM UK

² <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-34138127>

³ <http://www.inquest.org.uk/statistics/deaths-in-police-custody>

2. To support the United Families and Friend's Campaign's annual memorial procession, on the last Saturday of October

Disabled Students and Accessibility at United for Education Demo

NEC believes

1. In previous years, disabled students have faced considerable barriers in getting to, or otherwise participating in demonstrations called by the NUS
2. The NUS Disabled Students' campaign (DSC) is the democratic body through which disabled students throughout the UK can self-organise and pass policy
3. The NUS has a commitment to accessibility and against disability discrimination, not just at democratic events, but in all their forms of protest and lobbying.⁴
4. #Wecantmarch was a Twitter hashtag set up before previous demonstrations to highlight the problems disabled students faced in being included in direct action, with innovative solutions and ways to make direct action more accessible⁵⁶.

NEC further believes

1. The Disabled Student's Campaign has current policy on the importance of free, funded and accessible education.⁷
2. The Disabled Students' Campaign also has policy which calls "for a campaign of escalating direct action with the goal of preventing these cuts" in regard to Conservative cuts and their austerity programme⁸.
3. Some of the barriers faced by disabled students in getting to and participating in the national demonstration can include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Inaccessible/expensive transport
 - b. Inaccessible routes
 - c. Able-bodied/neuro-typical students telling them they are "too disabled" to go or be useful
 - d. A lack of tasks or activities available/advertised to disabled students making them feel as if they do not have a valuable role within our movement

⁴ http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nusdigital/document/documents/21531/NUS_Articles_Rules_January2016.pdf "Equal Opportunités"

⁵ <http://anticuts.com/2015/05/25/wecantmarch-on-may-27th/>

⁶ <https://wecantmarch.wordpress.com/2015/05/11/what-is-wecantmarch/>

⁷ <https://nusdigital.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/document/documents/16791/Disabled%20Students%20Policy%20201316.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJKEA56ZWKFU6MHNQ&Expires=1472143894&Signature=918fEqhHLA%2Bkhzzs%2BcGPaab%2FY3A%3D>, Motions from 2015, 102+103

⁸ Ibid, Motions from 2015, Emergency Motion: From Election to Austerity

4. Despite these barriers, disabled students have, and continue, to go on demonstrations when they can march, and this should not be discouraged, but facilitated.
5. Disabled students who can't march can take part in a wide range of other activities leading up to, and on the day. Such as: arrestee support, graphic design, press work etc.

NEC resolves

1. To send out to Student Unions information about why it is important disabled students are involved in the national demonstration, and how they can put in measures to ensure disabled student's involvement, e.g. accessible coaches
2. That there are certain requirements for the route chosen and operation of the demo, which include:
 - a. That stewards are clearly marked by wearing florescent bibs
 - b. Stewards are to be trained and able to inform and direct on:
 - i. Accessible toilets at the start of the march, and along the route
 - ii. Dropped curbs at the start and end of the route, as well as where the leaving points are.
 - iii. Leaving points marked by stewards so that people are able to leave if they wish to
 - c. The first bloc on the demonstration should be the Disabled Students' Bloc, so they are able to set the pace of the demonstration
 - d. That there be an accessible area for disabled people to listen to speakers during the rally, and that the stage itself is accessible.
3. That there be an accessibility sub-committee for the planning of the national demonstration, in regard to the march and the route itself. This committee should be made up of the Disabled Student's Officer and at least 2 other people from the Disabled Student's Committee, so that people with different disabilities are consulted.
4. That a "Demo HQ" be set up and facilitated by the NUS, along with the Disabled Students' Campaign, so that students who can't march can still participate in the demonstration, doing tasks that are essential to direct action such as coordinating arrestee support, doing press work etc.
5. That NUS social media, and, where possible, NUS FTOs, share on multiple platforms resources that the NUS DSC put out regarding disabled students and the national demonstration. In the cases where it is appropriate, DSOs from the nations may also publish resources, in which case, nations FTOs should also seek to publish these from their social media platforms.



Supporting the Junior Doctors

NEC believes

1. That junior doctors, having rejected the unsafe, unfair contract Jeremy Hunt is attempting to impose on them, are about to start a new round of strike action to defeat it. We hail the junior doctors for their determination and militancy in defending their rights and defending the health service and we support their strike.

NEC resolves

1. That we will do our best to mobilise students in support of the doctors' and other health workers' struggles and encourage Constituent Members to do the same.
2. That we will link this message to demands for the reversal of cuts and privatisation in the NHS, the nationalisation of health and social care, and the creation of genuinely public, well-funded, free health and care services for all.
3. That we will have discussions and regular contact with the BMA's Junior Doctors Committee, building on previous talks, in order to build solidarity with the junior doctors' and other health workers' strikes and to build links in particular with medical, nursing and other NHS students.

PREVENT review

NEC believes

1. NUS currently have policy opposing the PREVENT initiative, as well as the Prevent duty introduced in the Counter-terrorism Security Act 2015.
2. NUS are joined by a growing swathe of organisations in this opposition to PREVENT who have become vocal in campaigning against PREVENT, in part emboldened by NUS' strong recent stance.
3. That the Home Affairs Select Committee published its report into counter-terrorism measures "Radicalisation: the counter-narrative and identifying the tipping point" on the 25th of August, to which NUS contributed⁹.
4. The report recognises that PREVENT has become a 'toxic brand' and that approaches to counter-terrorism in the UK have created "suspicion and alienation" amongst those communities targeted by them - most prominently, Muslim communities.
5. It includes a number of recommendations, including reviewing and rebranding PREVENT as 'Engage', engaging more with "all sections of the Muslim community, including at the grassroots level", as well as identifying social media as a site of counter-extremism as part of what members have dubbed, somewhat grandiosely, a "terrestrial star wars".

⁹ www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/135/135.pdf NUS Are Mentioned on Page 22. The Video of NUS Oral Evidence can be found on HASC website here: www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/f2a86e88-262c-44b7-8a94-40f1dd936cad

NEC further believes

1. That our opposition is, and should continue to be, firmly rooted on the basis that PREVENT is fundamentally and irredeemably Islamophobic, damaging to civil liberties, and narrows the window of dissent. The perception of PREVENT as toxic is valid, and the grievances held by communities against it are legitimate.
2. Whilst we welcome the Home Affairs Select Committee adding their support for a review of PREVENT, we note that they uncritically accept many of the built-in assumptions about 'extremism' especially with regards to Muslim communities – including the apparent need for Muslim organisations to condemn acts of violence committed by Muslims.
3. That improving the PR image of PREVENT will not go nearly far enough to address these concerns, and if the deeply embedded Islamophobic assumptions on PREVENT are not confronted then any review will remain just that.
4. Likewise, we should not be under any illusion that any version of PREVENT since its introduction under Labour are models to aspire to - or that it has been anything other than Islamophobic since inception. Any allusions to returning to a Labour model of 'grassroots surveillance' should also be challenged.
5. That as Home Secretary, current Prime Minister Theresa May oversaw the vast expansion and bolstering of PREVENT and 'counter-terrorism measures'. We should prepare accordingly for May's government to continue down the reckless path of securitisation and criminalisation.
6. The philosophy and principles of British 'counter-terrorism' continue to be promoted and exported worldwide, from the USA to Europe. The emergence and growth of other illiberal and Islamophobic political moves such as the so-called 'burkini ban' in areas of France further demonstrate how Muslim communities continue to face unprecedented levels of state-sponsored attacks.
7. Thus, the necessity to challenge and expose PREVENT here remains clear, in order to set a defining precedent.

NEC resolves

1. For any future engagement with any independent review of PREVENT and/or 'counter-terrorism' legislation to be conducted according to the terms outlined above, and guided by the principle that PREVENT must be scrapped and uprooted, not merely rebranded and/or reformed.
2. To continue to campaign against PREVENT and the Prevent duty, and to proactively oppose any further counter-extremism measures proposed that impact civil liberties and/or feed Islamophobia
3. To continue to campaign against PREVENT and the Prevent duty, and to proactively oppose any further counter-extremism measures proposed that impact civil liberties and/or feed Islamophobia

NEC believes

1. NUS must actively campaign against racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism and fascism.
2. We have seen a significant rise in racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia following the UK's decision to leave the EU.
3. A total of 3,076 hate crimes were recorded across the UK between 16 and 30 June – compared to 915 reports recorded over the same period in 2015.¹⁰
4. Tell MAMA, an organisation that records anti-Muslim incidents in the UK, recently reported that incidents of anti-Muslim abuse and attacks in public areas of the UK rose by 326% in 2015, with women disproportionately targeted.¹¹
5. It also showed that far-right extremist groups are actively promoting hatred of Muslims on social media.
6. The Community Security Trust (CST), an organisation that protects British Jews from antisemitism, recorded 557 antisemitic incidents across the UK in the first six months of 2016, an 11% increase on the first six months of 2015.¹²
7. Last year we saw a rise in racist, islamophobic, and antisemitic attacks in our universities, with swastikas daubed on campuses, niqabs being ripped from Muslim women, and black students being assaulted in racist attacks.
8. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in online abuse towards Jews, Muslims, and LGBT+ individuals.
9. In the week following Brexit, complaints filed to police online hate-crime reporting site True Vision increased fivefold on the week before, with 331 hate crime incidents compared to a weekly average of 63.¹³
10. The Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 133 antisemitic that took place on social media in the first six months of 2016, up from 89 in 2015. The actual amount of antisemitic content on social media is actually much larger.
11. A large proportion of the online Islamophobic, antisemitic, and homophobic abuse has come from far-right, neo-Nazi communities.
12. The student movement must never give a platform to fascists because fascism seeks to eliminate free speech, democracy and annihilate its opponents and minorities.
13. We must ensure that campuses are safe spaces for students to live and study, and giving fascists a platform compromises the safe spaces that we must protect.
14. At NUS National Conference 2015, we no platformed National Action, a neo-Nazi group.
15. National Action continue to use social media platforms to promote and incite hatred against Jews and Muslims. Last year, they displayed their presence at Nottingham, Birmingham, targeting Jewish students with stickers that displayed the phrase: "Hitler was right".

¹⁰ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/brexit-hate-crime-racism-stats-spike-police-england-wales-eu-referendum-a7126706.html>

¹¹ https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jun/29/incidents-of-anti-muslim-abuse-up-by-326-in-2015-says-tell-mama?CMP=share_btn_tw

¹² https://cst.org.uk/data/file/4/f/Incidents_Report_-_Jan-June_2016.1470133952.pdf

¹³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/30/police-report-fivefold-increase-race-hate-crimes-since-brexit-result>

NEC further believes

1. Combatting racism and fascism should be at the heart of NUS' and students' unions work, especially in light of the rise in hate crimes across the UK.
2. Students' unions and their academic institutions have a duty of care and protection to all their members' safety both on and off campus, including on social media.
3. NUS first passed its no platform policy at NUS National Conference in April 1974 against a backdrop of increased racial tension, with groups such as the National Front inciting racial hatred on campuses.
4. NUS has a long-standing precedent for standing up to fascist and racist groups that seek to divide students on racial, religious or ethnic lines.
5. NUS has a record of not only standing up to fascist groups on the far-right, such as the British National Party (BNP) and the English Defence League (EDL), but also to groups such as Hizb ut-tahrir, Al Muhajiroun, and the Muslim Public Affairs Committee (MPAC).
6. However, with the emergence of social media there has not been a change to NUS' no platform policy that accounts for this development.
7. Social media platforms have enabled racist and fascist groups to espouse their hate online, and NUS' no platform policy must take this into account to ensure the safety of students.
8. NUS' no platform policy mandates Officers, Committee Members and Trustees to not share a public platform with an individual or member of an organisation or group known to hold racist or fascist views. This does not however include on social media.
9. NUS Officers, Committee Members, Trustees, and candidates for NUS elections should not accept endorsement from or provide it to groups or representatives of groups who are on NUS' no platform list.
10. At the NUS NEC meeting on 18th July, the NUS National President was unable to provide clarity on NUS' no platform policy and how it applies to social media.
11. Sharing a platform does not simply mean sharing or providing a physical platform, it should also mean sharing or providing an online platform.
12. There is a need for a coordinated response across student unions to the rise in on- and off-campus abuse, but particularly abuse on social media.

NEC resolves

1. To actively challenge racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism and fascism.
2. Between now and National Conference, to ask DPC to produce guidance on applying NUS' no platform policy to include sharing a virtual platform (on social media) with groups and/or representatives of groups that are on the NUS no platform list. This includes but is not limited to accepting or providing endorsement for such groups and/or representatives.



3. To work with student unions and social media outlets on campaigns to actively combat abuse on social media.
4. To promote no platform policies against racists and fascists within student unions.

Brexit

NEC believes

1. On Thursday 23 June 2016 the British people voted, by a small margin of less than 2% of the population – to leave the European Union (EU) by 51.9% to 48.1%.
2. The Leave campaign won the vote on the basis of lies and whipping up racism and xenophobia. The promise of £350million extra for the NHS every week was just one of these lies. Only a week before the vote Nigel Farage of the Leave campaign launched an anti-migrant poster which has been widely denounced as inciting racial hatred. The poster in question shows a queue of mostly non-white migrants and refugees with the slogan “Breaking point: the EU has failed us all.”
3. One week before the referendum took place Jo Cox MP, who was well known for her support and campaigning work for refugees and in defence of immigration, was brutally murdered. Her alleged murderer has links to fascist organisations¹⁴
4. Since the referendum result there has been a massive rise in racist and xenophobic hate crimes. Around five times as many hate crimes were reported to the police nationally in the week following the Brexit vote. Attacks on restaurants, shops, social media abuse and violent harassment of immigrants, Black people, international students and other minoritised communities has been on the rise.
5. Our universities, colleges and students are under serious threat following the leave vote – although the scale of how much this will adversely impact upon education will only be known for certain once the precise terms of Brexit have been negotiated. We should be concerned that leaving the EU could impact the 125,000 EU students currently studying at UK universities and the 43,000 UK university staff from other EU countries, that UK universities would be likely to lose the additional 15% of funding they receive from the EU, that UK students could have their freedom of movement restricted and cease to benefit from the Erasmus exchange program, which has provided funds for over 200,000 undergraduates to travel to EU countries to study as part of their degree.
6. Prime Minister Theresa May has also recently announced plans for new proposals to further limit international student numbers, which are likely to include reduced numbers of student visas issued, so as to “develop sustainable funding models that are not so dependent on international students”.
7. In effect these moves will only further undermine the education sector which depends on freedom of collaboration and movement for research and learning purposes.

¹⁴ <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2016/06/16/alleged-killer-british-mp-was-longtime-supporter-neo-nazi-national-alliance>

NEC further believes

1. It is vital that NUS engages in the debate over what the terms of Britain leaving the EU should be. NUS' focus in the debate should be on defending students and education, supporting jobs and workers rights and arguing for environmental protections and freedom of movement. We must oppose all attacks on immigration and challenge the myths and lies against immigrants and refugees.
2. A democratic deficit has been created by the fact that the EU referendum debate was dominated by lies and the vote was on something abstract rather than concrete. The electorate were told that leaving the EU would stop 'uncontrolled immigration', bring back Britain's 'sovereignty', allow Britain to spend the subsidy it currently gives to the EU on the NHS. At the same time the electorate were told that if Britain came out of the EU it could maintain all of the benefits of EU membership – free trade in Europe, all the protections that came with EU legislation for human rights, the environment, for working conditions and for students. In reality this is not what the final terms of the Brexit will look like, as all of the EU leaders have made clear. What is actually at stake has yet to be negotiated.

NEC resolves

1. To campaign against the massive wave of racism, xenophobia and bigotry unleashed by the EU referendum campaign and result. NUS must defend international students, all students experiencing racism and xenophobia as well as confront the myths about immigration and defend freedom of movement within the EU.
2. To campaign for the terms of Brexit to include: keeping freedom of movement and no attacks or 'controls' on immigration, defending the immigration status and rights of EU international students, maintaining the funding for UK universities and all of the benefits students currently enjoy through EU membership and maintaining the jobs, workers' rights as well as environmental protections that currently come along with EU membership.
3. To campaign to keep Free Movement as a key demand.

Defend Education – no fees and cuts: protest outside Tory Party Conference 2016

NEC believes

1. The Tory government's austerity agenda is causing a cost of living crisis, plunged millions into poverty, is harming our public services from the NHS to education and is leaving the majority of society worse off.
2. Students have been hit hard by £9,000 fees, mortgage sized student debt, the scrapping of grants and student support, the housing crisis and the massive cuts to our colleges and universities.



3. The Tory government is deepening its attack on students and education this year with the 'Area Reviews' in further education which will devastate our colleges, alongside a marketization agenda in higher education which will see tuition fees increased yet again at the UK's elite universities
4. Last year NUS supported a TUC mobilization against the Tory government during their annual conference

NEC further believes

1. On the first day of the Tory Party Conference happening in Birmingham on Sunday 2 October, thousands of people are to march against austerity and the cuts in a national demonstration organized by the People's Assembly Against Austerity and the trade union movement.
2. NUS should be at the heart of the national demonstration outside Tory Party Conference, putting forward the demands of the student movement to the government with a focus on demanding an end to education cuts and the scrapping of tuition fees.
3. NUS should work closely with the People's Assembly Against Austerity, its student wing the Student Assembly Against Austerity and the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts to mobilise as many students as possible to attend this demonstration.


NEC resolves

1. To support the People's Assembly Against Austerity's national demonstration outside Tory Party Conference on Sunday 2 October 2016 in Birmingham.
2. To organise a student bloc on the national demonstration outside Tory Party Conference alongside the Student Assembly Against Austerity and the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts.
3. To promote the national demonstration outside Tory Party Conference on NUS' social media and website to Students' Unions and students.

Meeting date: 8 December 2016

Motion 1: One Day Without Us

NEC believes

1. Since the Brexit vote, we have seen levels of xenophobia and racism that have been increasingly legitimised.
 2. On February 20th, a national day of action will take place called One Day Without Us.
 3. The Migrant workers and their supporters are planning a day of action to highlight their role in the UK in what is being billed as a celebration of the contribution they make to British society.
- 

4. The trigger for the event was profound concern about worsening attitudes to migrants in the UK.

NEC further believes

1. We must fight back against escalating attacks on migrants from the government, and against wider societal prejudice, and against the exploitation of migrant workers.
2. The aim of the day of action is to emphasise the variety of work migrants undertake to help keep the UK afloat – from NHS doctors to those who staff the hospitality sector.
3. Migrant strikes have been hugely empowering and effective in other contexts, for instance in the United States.
4. It is absolutely legitimate to cause disruption to fight oppression and injustice.

NEC resolves

1. To support One Day Without Us, sending a message of solidarity to the organisers.
2. To provide advice and guidance to students and unions regarding the participation of international students in this day of action and protests like it.
3. To promote One Day Without Us to students and unions, helping to build turnout and maximise its presence on social media and in the press.
4. To ensure universities and colleges are at the heart of the day of action, highlighting the difference international students and migrant academics and non-academic workers make to our academic and vocational communities of learning as well as the wider society.

Motion 2: Solidarity With #FeesMustFall

NEC believes

1. Launched a year ago in October 2015, #FeesMustFall has taken a strong stand for a free and decolonised education in South Africa.
2. The movement has highlighted how racism, classism, sexism, able-ism and other forms of domination intersect in the modern neoliberal university.

NUS further believes

1. The determination and steadfastness of students, workers and activists in their demand of free and decolonised education has been an inspiration to many across the globe

NEC resolves



1. We stand in solidarity with students, workers and activists in South Africa, demanding a free and decolonised education system.
2. We condemn the State-sponsored violence that has been a response to the legitimate protests of the movement.
3. We call for the ceasing of all mass arrests and abuse of legal processes in South Africa, and an end to the use of violence by universities through private security.
4. We call for South African universities to bring back all suspended, expelled, and interdicted student activists who have participated in #FeesMustFall, and to take a public stance supporting the call for free decolonised education.

Motion 3: Justice for TOEIC Victims

NEC believes

1. In February 2014, BBC's Panorama aired an 'investigative' episode which showed some people taking the ETS Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) test were cheating by using 'proxy' test takers who took the test in their place. The test was one of a number approved by the Home Office to prove the requisite level of English in connection with visa applications, including student visas.
2. Upon Panorama's discoveries, the then Home Secretary Theresa May promised to 'do something about it'.
3. Within a few months, Educational Testing Services (ETS), the US Company which ran the tests, provided to the Home Office two lists of people who had taken the previously Home Office-sanctioned test. They had used a hastily prepared computer analysis programme to run all of the voice recordings of the speaking element of the tests and identify those which appeared to contain the same voice more than once, and therefore, a proxy test taker. People in one list were labelled 'cheats' (ETS had decided their tests to be 'invalid') and the others 'suspected cheats' (ETS had decided their tests to be of 'questionable' validity), in total naming over 50,000 individuals¹⁵.
4. Immigration removal action was taken against the individuals identified on these lists shortly thereafter, leading to over 1,400 of them being detained in detention centres for removal to their home countries.
5. About half of those named have already had action taken against them.

¹⁵ We understand that the 'invalid' label was used where ETS considered there to be evidence of a proxy test taker on the voice recording of the test, and the 'questionable' label was used to identify all other tests where, although there was no evidence of a proxy test taker on the recording, ETS considered there to be some other reason to question the integrity of the test, such as the test was sat at a testing centre where ETS had identified the use of proxies in other tests, or where it considered there to be "some other administrative irregularity".

6. The vast majority of those against whom action has been taken were not/have not been given an in country right of appeal, i.e. the right to defend themselves before being removed from the country. Some have no right of appeal at all, i.e. they are not permitted to challenge the allegations against them here in the UK or even after leaving the country either, either because of the process adopted by the Home Office side-stepped this legal protection, or because appeal rights for international students were removed in April 2015.
7. An NUS commissioned expert report, that of Dr Harrison of JP French Associates (dated 5 February 2015), cast serious doubts on the evidence that the Home Office relied upon to identify the cheats and suspected cheats.
8. On 25 October 2016, the Court of Appeal dismissed the Home Office's appeal.
9. In Court of Appeal hearing, the court was critical of the Home Office's handling of these cases and the court called for better case management by the Home Office, and for a review of similar cases (there are some 350 cases pending in the Court of Appeal).
10. On 2 November 2016, the Court of Appeal refused Mr Gazi permission to appeal (from a decision of the President of the Upper Tribunal) the January 2015 decision to remove him from the UK, with only a right of appeal from Bangladesh. Since the Home Office did not have Dr Harrison's report when it made the decision to remove Mr Gazi (because it was not then in existence) it was entitled to reach the conclusion that there was strong evidence that Mr Gazi had cheated, thus meeting the legal test that he should be removed to appeal from abroad.
11. It is understood that in similar cases the Court of Appeal will shortly refuse permission to appeal, and the students will be told by the Home Office that they must leave the UK to appeal from abroad. It is understood that there will be no review of these cases by the Home Office.
12. Many students fear returning to their home countries with the allegation of cheating against them, not only because this will adversely affect their future international visa applications, but primarily because of the stigma attached to an allegation of cheating and the reception and backlash they will receive because of it.
13. Some students come from small villages in their home countries with limited or sporadic access to electricity and the internet access. For these students, it would not be practical or feasible to bring an appeal once they have returned home. It is notable that the Home Office has not provided any information identifying the number of out of country appeals that have actually been brought, or that have been successful.
14. As also noted above, there are some students that do not have a right of appeal at all, whether in country or out of country. The lead judicial review case on this issue is that of *Mohibullah* which was heard in the Upper Tribunal on 1, 2 and 4 August 2016. Judgment in this case is still pending.



NUS further believes

1. An enquiry was launched by the Home Affairs Committee in April 2016 into the way the Home Office handled the situation due to demand from NUS and other organisations. The inquiry is still ongoing.
2. Given the chair of the Home Affairs Committee has been replaced, there is a concern that the matter would fall off the agenda and the Home Office and Theresa May would not be scrutinised for their actions.
3. The Home Office is reviewing all appeal cases in the Court of Appeal but it is understood that there will be no review of the majority of cases, which are judicial review cases (like that of Gazi) where there is only an out-of-country appeal.
4. Even of the very few who had the opportunity and means to defend themselves in successful in-country appeals many have had their subsequent visa applications rejected.
5. Many of the affected students who are in touch with us have and continue to suffer from mental health problems arising from the stress of the situation they have found themselves in over the past couple of years.
6. We know of at least one case where the wife of one of the accused students lost her unborn baby due to the stress she was under.
7. Many have been denied access to the NHS or have been asked to pay for any treatment they receive as they are considered to be in the UK illegally despite that their cases are still ongoing.
8. Many affected students were studying degrees which require a high level of English proficiency and were performing very well, clearly proving they would have had no reason to cheat at their English language test.
9. Many affected students had paid thousands of pounds to colleges and universities but have been prevented from completing their studies.

NEC resolves

1. National Union of Students supports those affected by the Home Office's disproportionate actions and politically motivated criminalisation of such a big proportion of our membership.
2. NUS asks that all cases (not only in-country appeal cases) are subject to review by the Home Office - with independent oversight - in the light of the various expert evidence and judgments that have become available since most decisions were taken in 2014/2015, and that all students are interviewed before a new decision is reached. If, following the review, the Home Office remains of the view that the evidence against a student reaches the evidential burden, such to justify making a formal decision that they cheated, all students should be afforded an in country right of appeal so that they have a fair opportunity to put forward their evidence in response in an appeal.



3. NUS requests that the Home Affairs Select Committee make enquiries to the Home Office and the First Tier Tribunal/Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) to identify the number of out of country appeals that have been brought, and that have been successful, following removal of a student accused of TOEIC fraud to determine if out of country appeal should at all be considered.
4. NUS demands that the Home Affairs Select Committee concludes the inquiry with actionable, fair and clear outcomes as a matter of urgency.
5. NUS strongly recommends the Home Office to consider offering each student a retest of a suitable English Language test, in order for students to prove proficiency in their English ability, eliminating the requirement for numerous lengthy litigations.
6. While NUS is fully aware no amount of money or any kind of apology can undo the unspeakable injustice that these students have faced, we demand compensation, monetary and otherwise for those who have been wrongfully accused of unlawful behaviour.

Motion 4: Student Survivors Deserve Better

NEC believes

1. Recent research has highlighted the problem of abuse and harassment by staff towards students, and faced by, particularly junior, women staff¹⁶.
2. Sussex University allowed a senior lecturer to continue working despite allegations of abuse and police investigation¹⁷. At Goldsmiths, Sara Ahmed, the former head of the Centre for Feminist Research, publicly quit her post, citing ongoing and endemic harassment¹⁸.
3. Last month Universities UK published the findings of its taskforce on campus sexual violence, alongside guidance replacing the outdated Zellick Report.
4. That we welcome this work and is happy to see that survivors will no longer be forced to report incidents to the police before receiving any support from their universities.
5. However, that the guidance and report did not adequately consider harassment and abuse perpetrated by staff, and indeed, that staff themselves face, is a serious failing.
6. That the abuse and harassment endemic in higher education cannot be understood without seeing it in the context of marketisation and cuts. These make it harder for survivors to speak out, fearing for their future careers.

NEC resolves

¹⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/aug/26/sexual-harassment-of-students-by-university-staff-hidden-by-non-disclosure-agreements> and <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/oct/07/scale-of-sexual-abuse-in-uk-universities-likened-to-savile-and-catholic-scandals>

¹⁷ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/london-university-goldsmiths-professor-quits-sexual-harassment-female-students-staff-a7072131.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sussex-university-lecturer-student-girlfriend-criminal-conviction-beat-up-assault-lee-salter-a7183391.html>

1. To stand in solidarity with students and staff who have faced harassment and abuse and challenge institutional cultures which enable and mask abuse.
2. To produce resources to support students facing and wanting to campaign against sexual violence perpetrated by staff, and to offer our support to existing campus campaigns
3. To demand that universities record and make public their data on sexual violence, including that faced by staff
4. To work closely with the 1752 Group to carry out research into experiences of student-staff misconduct and produce a report at the end of the research

Meeting date: 28 February 2017

Motion 1: Support Picturehouse Strikers

NEC believes

1. That workers at Picturehouse cinemas have been striking since September for the Living Wage, sick pay, maternity/paternity pay, and union recognition.
2. That the owner of Picturehouse, Cineworld, made £30 million profit in the first half of 2016.
3. That many students are employees of Picturehouse.
4. That Picturehouse often sells memberships and conducts marketing through Students' Unions.
5. That we support the demands of the Picturehouse workers and we want them to win.
6. That they set a good example for all low-paid workers and their victory will encourage others.
7. That striking for better pay is an excellent way to fight inequality

NEC resolves

1. To publicise the Picturehouse dispute and encourage members to support their strike fund.
2. To encourage students who work for Picturehouse to join BECTU and find out about the dispute.
3. To encourage Students' Unions to deny Picturehouse access to Freshers' Fairs and other marketing opportunities until they concede to the demands of the strikers.

Motion 2: NUS to Condemn Muslim Ban

NEC believes

1. Donald Trump's first days in office have been marked by repeated acts of naked racism and xenophobia.



2. Black people are disproportionately impacted by Trumps administration through mass incarceration, state surveillance, state executions through police brutality and now black Muslims through the muslim ban.
3. The administration's decisions continue the state violence of migrants and Muslims, especially black muslims who face the double of oppression of anti-black racism and islamophobia
4. The so-called Muslim Ban, which prevents migration from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen, is the latest state violence issued by the US.
5. US citizens with dual nationality as well as Green Card holders have been stopped at borders.
6. Detained persons have been questioned about their religious and political beliefs and affiliations, including on their support for President Trump.
7. The British government has remained silent and repeatedly refused to comment on its US counterpart's actions.
8. The British government has remained silent on the US state violence enacted by racist ideology and policies.
9. The British government's own track record on the targeting of migrants and Muslim communities has led many to believe that its silence is motivated by tacit support for President Trump's actions.

NEC further believes

1. That the structural discrimination of minorities and the most vulnerable by governments is unacceptable.
2. That migrants are welcome in our society.
3. Anti-black racism and added islamophobia doubly impact black muslims.
4. That Muslims should never be targeted for their faith or their beliefs.
5. That the right of free movement is a key human right.
6. That the British government's own policies regarding Migrants, black people and Muslims are practically and institutionally racist.
7. That students and students' unions have a key role to play in offering support and solidarity to those affected by the ban.
8. That students and students' unions have a key role to play in the development of effective and broad political movements to turn the tide of xenophobia and Islamophobia which have been normalised for too long within our society and are reaching worrying heights.

NEC resolves

1. To support demonstrations and actions taken by students and community groups against the ban as well as against our own government's complicity.



2. To continue to campaign against the UK government's discrimination of migrants, Muslim communities and black lives.
3. To encourage students to offer refuge to stranded migrants, students, and dual-nationality US citizens.
4. To collaborate with migrant solidarity campaign in the UK against detention centres and deportations such as the 'Shut Down Yarls Wood Campaign' and 'Black Lives Matter'.

Motion 3: Motion of Censure for VP UD

NEC believes

1. Al Jazeera did an investigation into the actions of the Israeli Embassy.
2. During the course of this investigation which found influence by the Israeli Embassy leading to dismissals and resignations, the investigation led to Labour Students and NUS.
3. The investigation implicated Richard Brooks who stated he was organising against the NUS President.
4. Richard was filmed stating that he went on an all-expense paid trip to Israel
5. Student in HE and FE unions have released statements and open letters in response to the findings of the investigations demanding that VP Richard Brooks be held to account by the appropriate democratic body. Others have called for his immediate resignation.

NEC further believes

1. That NEC was not informed of any such trip
2. That NEC is the accountable body for the Vice President Union President
3. That NUS FTOs are obliged to declare significant benefits of this kind
4. Richard has rejected all wrong-doing and claimed that the undercover reporter was introduced to him as a student organiser.
5. NEC rejects the notion that it is acceptable for a VP to hold a meeting to discuss the undermining of a democratically elected officer with a student introduced by an embassy, and therefore by a foreign government.

NEC resolves

1. To censure the Vice President Union Development for violating democratic procedures of accountability

Motion 4: Condemn the violation of BDS policy

NEC believes

1. Several members of NEC have taken part in an all expenses-paid visit to Israel and Palestine in January 2017.



2. Evidence strongly indicates that this trip included trips to settlements, classified as illegal under internal law; land from which Palestinians have been ethnically cleansed and which are re-populated exclusively by Israeli settlers¹⁹²⁰.
3. NUS has democratic policy on supporting the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions movement. BDS is a movement rooted in human rights that promotes freedom, equality and justice for the Palestinian people occupied, colonised and brutalised by the state of Israel, and which outlines a strategy of leveraging pressure on the state of Israel and on our own governments and institutions.
4. Our BDS policy was voted through and later re-affirmed, on the back of growing support for BDS among our membership. This support itself was born of the recognition that all previous tactics of engaging with Israel only enabled, facilitated or validated its flagrant human rights abuses – including its apartheid policies, ethnic cleansing, its inhumane siege on Gaza, its colonial practices throughout the West Bank and more.
5. Undertaking trips such as these that serves to undermine BDS policy and run counter to the principles of solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian people that inform it.
6. A petition initiated by FE college students criticising the decision of the FTOs concerned has been signed by hundreds of students, and has urged the NEC to hold them to account²¹.
7. An open letter signed by 32 Palestinian student and/or student-led organisations urged the FTOs to reconsider their participation in the trip

NEC further believes

1. The decision to participate in the trip represents a violation of NUS' democratic policy on BDS and warrants censure.
2. Coming at a time when Al Jazeera's 'The Lobby' documentary series has raised serious allegations of interference by the Israeli embassy and related organisations into NUS' democratic structures, the decision to participate in such a trip shows a disregard for the for the stability of NUS²²²³²⁴²⁵²⁶.
3. Coming at a time when the UN Security Council has recently reaffirmed the illegality of settlements under international law, the decision to visit settlements as part of trip is an embarrassingly regressive one, and an affront to the values of human rights and respect for international law that the student movement embodies.
4. The situation in Israel and Palestine is not an equally balanced equation – Israel is a militarised state that enjoys broad support and funding from superpower nations, whereas the Palestinians are an occupied and subjugated population.

¹⁹ <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/nus-settlement-story-1306623668>

²⁰ <https://twitter.com/tmcbride486/status/822434376684359680>

²¹ <https://fe4palestine.tumblr.com/>

²² <https://www.varsity.co.uk/news/11709>

²³ <http://mancunion.com/2017/01/11/nus-vice-president-caught-film-planning-oust-president/>

²⁴ <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/8b226812-d849-11e6-b069-6105840fb14c>

²⁵ <http://www.cherwell.org/2017/01/11/nus-vice-president-filmed-plotting-to-oust-malia-bouattia/>

²⁶ <https://medium.com/@MalakaMohammed/statement-by-palestinian-students-in-the-uk-demanding-the-resignation-of-richard-brooks-d80586cbb8a4#.d3micksz9>

5. There is a vast expanse of writing and documentation available for education on the Palestine-Israel issue. It does not require all expense-paid trips to formulate a political opinion.
6. International solidarity with a people should be rooted in a principled position of respect for human rights and dignity, and against oppression and should not be swayed by full-expense paid trips.

NEC resolves

1. To condemn the participation of NEC members in trips, which contribute, to the normalisation of the situation of Palestinians
2. To condemn the normalisation of Israeli settlements which are illegal under international law
3. To condemn the violation of BDS policy by elected officers and members of the NEC
4. To re-affirm our solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine

Motion 5: Unaccompanied Children in France

NEC believes

1. The 'Dubs Amendment' created a scheme for unaccompanied refugee children in Europe to be offered safe refuge in the UK by inserting a special section into the Immigration Act 2016 [Section 67].
2. The amendment passed through Parliament in May 2016 with many Parliamentarians speaking passionately about our collective responsibility to pull our weight to ease the refugee crisis and offer protection to children forced to flee their homes without parents or other family.
3. At the time the Dubs Amendment was passed, it was estimated that there were 90,000 unaccompanied children in Europe.
4. The House of Lords wanted to offer sanctuary to 3,000 children under the scheme and pushed through the 'Dubs Amendment' named after the proposer, Lord Alf Dubs.
5. To date, only 200 children have been brought to the UK from France (mainly directly from the Calais camp) under the Dubs Amendment Scheme.
6. However at least 100 unaccompanied children are living in dangerous conditions in the Dunkirk camp. Yet the Government has not yet considered any children from the Dunkirk camp for transfer to the UK under the Dubs Scheme.
7. Children in the Dunkirk camp are at serious risk of trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse, violence and exposure to drugs such as heroin and morphine.
8. Children under the age of 16 living in the Dunkirk camp are not receiving proper full time education in schools and children between the ages of 16 and 18 (who do not want to claim asylum in France) are denied access to any education.



9. The camp's population has increased beyond capacity: facilities are overused posing severe risks to health and sanitation. Many of these children live in overcrowded shelters – there can be as many as twelve sharing a space designed for just four people. At least 40 unaccompanied children do not have a shelter and are bedding down on floors in communal areas.
10. There are also a significant number of unaccompanied children in Paris who are similarly excluded from consideration for transfer under Section 67, Immigration Act 2016. Many of whom are sleeping rough in areas such as St Denis and the north of the city, after the so-called 'Stalingrad' camp was broken up by police. We understand that many of the children in Paris were previously resident at the Calais camp.
11. That the Government's Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme has recently stopped accepting children with complex needs, including those with disabilities and learning difficulties due to a lack of suitable accommodation and "suitable reception capacity."²⁷

NEC further believes

1. The numbers of unaccompanied children living in the Dunkirk camp have increased over the last nine months and we are deeply concerned that neither the French nor UK authorities have taken responsibility for protecting them. The UK government must keep to its commitments, made in Parliament to give sanctuary to a number of unaccompanied children.
2. The government must, as a matter of urgency, start considering unaccompanied children from the Dunkirk camp for transfer to the UK under Section 67, Immigration Act 2016.
3. The denial of these children access a proper education - by both the French and British authorities is something that NUS should must be at the forefront of challenging.
4. The specific exclusion of disabled children from entering the UK as asylum seekers speaks to the wider disableist rhetoric, policies and beliefs purported by the Conservative Government – namely, that disabled people are a "drain on the system" which can be seen through the massive cuts to disability benefits.
5. There is a significant lack of accessible housing and our public services are under immense pressure – however, this is not due to (disabled) refugees, but due to policies of austerity.

NEC resolves

1. To encourage individual Students' Union to contact their MPs and any member of the House of Lords who has a relationship with their institution to pressure the government publicly and in private to honor its obligations.

²⁷ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/disabled-child-refugees-uk-suspend-entry-home-office-resettlement-unhcr-united-nations-lord-dubs-a7571451.html>

2. To encourage Student Unions and work with other education trade unions to call on their educational establishments to lobby the government and to support our calls for "right to live and the right to learn" for unaccompanied children in the UK.
3. To work with activists and lawyers who are present at the camp to see what logistical support is needed and help individual unions to arrange for these needs to be addressed.
4. The president to publish an open letter to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, reminding them of their obligations under the amendment and raise the issue of access to education, healthcare and decent housing conditions as a matter of urgency.
5. To circulate the crowdfunding campaign organised by Dunkirk Legal Support team " Help Bring Dunkirk's Forgotten Children to safety" to NUS members and over social media (<https://www.crowdjustice.org/case/dunkirk-unaccompanied-children/>)
6. When campaigning for the right of refugee children to come to the UK, to specifically mention the plight and additional needs of disabled refugees – e.g. accessible housing, disability benefits, suitable accommodations in education.

Emergency Motion 1: Shiromini Satkunaraja

NEC believes

1. on 21/2/17, Bangor University student Shiromini Satkunaraja and her mother, Roshani, were arrested and detained to be deported to Sri Lanka.
2. That Shiromini is due to complete her degree at the end of this academic year, and deportation on the proposed date of 28/2/17 would have precluded her completion - projected to be a first class honours degree.
3. Bangor SU Vice President Helen Marchant and NUS Wales Deputy President Carmen Smith have led a campaign over a very short period of time, to have secured Shiromini and Roshani's release from Yarl's Wood detention centre yesterday Monday 27/2/17.
4. Shiromini and Roshani's lawyer has stated, "these positive developments came about only because this case has seen a groundswell of public opinion" crediting the coordination by NUS Wales of a huge response by the student movement to secure the release of one of our own.

NEC further believes

1. The Westminster Government's immigration and asylum policies are inhumane, dehumanising and rely on tropes of "the other"



2. Securing the safety of a third student in a year who is within the confines of the asylum process, is a significant win for the student movement and demonstrates the true purpose and value of our collectivism

NEC resolves

1. For the President to write together with the Presidents of NUS Scotland, NUS Wales and NUS-USI, to the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, specifically noting our concerns with the treatment of students who are asylum seekers and refugees, but underlining our belief that students should be removed from net migration targets.
2. For NEC to congratulate Helen Marchant of Bangor SU, and Carmen Smith of NUS Wales, for the hard work and national coordination of the campaign to release Shiromini and Roshani from detention.

Meeting date: 30 May 2017

Motions Remitted from National Conference 2017

Motion 302: Student friendly SU student groups

Conference believes

1. Many SU student groups (societies and clubs) operate their funding through the Student Union, often through a cash office.
2. This requires students to go to the Student Union in person in order to operate their student group finances.
3. Many students would need to organise student group events over holiday times. This means that to organise their funding they need to go into the Student Union cash office in order to organise their student group events. This poses as great difficulty to the student group committees.
4. This poses particular problems for distance learners and mature and part-time students, and student unions with satellite campuses.

Conference resolves

1. Work with Student Unions to help transfer all student group finances to an online system so that students can organise society events remotely.
2. Help Student Unions to develop a user-friendly student group interface.

Motion 304: It's all about the tactics

Conference believes

1. That in the past 20 years there has been a dramatic increase in the amount of outsourcing of services in universities and colleges
2. Many services previously run by student unions are now run by private providers



3. In many cases student unions no longer run any commercial services
4. NUS Services currently provides support for unions who run services like bars, shops, café's and nightclubs
5. NUS Services currently doesn't provide services for unions where the bar, shop, cafe or nightclub are run by a private provider
6. NUS Services is a core part of the NUS offer
7. A Freedom Of Information (FOI) request at Sussex University revealed contract conditions which were negative for students

Conference further believes

1. Outsourcing in the public sector to profit driven private providers leads to a focus on profiteering
2. Outsourcing compounds the challenge of students being treated like consumers and not partners
3. Outsourcing leads to increased costs and reduced quality
4. Outsourcing is a favoured trick by this Tory government
5. Student unions have no divine right to run commercial services and have in some cases run services poorly
6. That some student unions have conducted boycott's against outsourced providers
7. That boycotts are a legitimate tactic
8. That other student unions have chosen to constructively engage
9. That constructive engagement can lead have a positive impact and that through dialogue constructive engagement can produce incredibly positive impacts
10. That the student movement has a long and proud tradition of constructive engagement which has changed the world for the better
11. That constructive engagement is a legitimate tactic
12. That constructive engagement should always be the first approach taken, and boycotts should be reserved for when constructive engagement has broken down
13. That the Sussex University FOI proves that making FOI requests can produce insightful results
14. That unions with no commercial services should also receive support relating to their campus services
15. That unions with no commercial services have the least favourable member benefit statements
16. That the number of unions not running commercial services is increasing
17. That NUS Services not providing support to those unions in relation to campus services provides a major strategic risk to the student movement
18. That addressing this risk should be an absolute priority

Conference resolves

1. To do something about this...
2. For NUS to make a FOI request to every institution in the UK regarding the details of its outsourced contracts



3. To make the results of these FOI requests publically available to all student unions
4. To highlight any patterns, trends or concerns which this reveals
5. To include working with outsourced providers in the NUS Services work plan for 2016/17
6. For this to include providing support for unions seeking to improve campus services which they do not control
7. To open discussions with the main providers of university catering, cleaning and security to seek national improvements to standards and costs
8. To publish guidance to student unions on the legal status of provision which is not directly delivered by either the institution or the SU
9. To constructively engage nationally on behalf of students wherever possible as a first resort

Motion 305: Make University Sports Inclusive For Trans and Intersex Students

Conference believes

1. That trans and intersex students should be able to train and compete in whichever sports team best fits their gender identity;
2. That external associations, which some university sports clubs choose to affiliate with, should revise their policies to work towards complete inclusion for trans and intersex students; and
3. That trans and intersex students should not be asked to disclose their legal gender or personal medical information to participate in university sport, including details regarding hormone replacement therapy. These demands act as barriers and can make sport inaccessible for trans students who cannot or do not wish to medically transition and can alienate and prevent those who are medically transitioning from partaking in sport. Furthermore, intersex students can feel unwelcome in gendered sports teams altogether.

Conference further believes

1. That the policies produced by BUCS, the FA, and the RFU regarding trans and intersex athletes are not suitable for higher education, due to their outdated language and exclusionary demands for medical information and gender certificates from students; and
2. That Durham Students' Union's recent policy regarding trans and intersex inclusivity is appropriate for all higher education institutions, for it allows trans and intersex students to compete and train in whichever team best fits their gender identity, providing the team is not affiliated with external sporting associations and their policies.

Conference resolves

1. To ensure that the NUS Vice President (Union Development) works with the NUS Trans Officer to produce a set of good practice guidelines for trans and intersex students for all HE/FE institutions to follow, which encourages institutions to write a policy, that allows trans and intersex students to compete in whichever team best fits their gender identity without having to disclose any personal



medical information, including details regarding hormone replacement therapy, or their legal gender, with obvious exceptions for sport teams bound by policies from external affiliations;

2. To lobby external sporting associations to revise current policies or to create a specific higher education policy to ensure that university sport is wholly inclusive of trans and intersex students;
3. To ensure the NUS Vice President (Union Development) is consulting with the NUS Trans Officer and continually working together with HE/FE sports organisations to ensure they are aware of the laws protecting trans and intersex students in the UK; and
4. To ensure that NUS campaigns on LGBT+ inclusivity in sports also highlight the difficulties trans and intersex students face in sport.

Motion 309: It's not a bar it's a union

Conference believes

1. One of the largest sources of revenues for Student Unions is taken at the Bars and Pubs.
2. Majority of Student Union events take place in Union Bars and Pubs.
3. Student Unions require a minimum bar spend when societies wish to use the Bars and Pubs for events. This encourages a culture where alcohol consumption is central to events.
4. This culture makes many students feel uncomfortable or unwelcome in their Union or society socials

Conference further believes

1. Alcohol related welfare concerns, such as alcoholism, binge drinking and crime & disorder could be combated through increased alternatives to alcohol related activities.
2. Student Unions have a duty of care to discourage alcohol related crime and disorder.

Conference resolves

1. To encourage Student Unions to develop alternatives to bars and pubs as locations for society socials.
2. To ban the minimum bar spend for student societies when they hire Student Union bars and pubs.
3. To encourage Student Unions that are redeveloping their Union building, to increase non-alcohol related social venues i.e. cafes, canteens and restaurants.
4. NUS to provide training for Student Union staff in order to provide alcohol free alternatives for society and Student Union events.
5. To work with Student Unions to provide training for SU staff in raising awareness of alcohol related issues.
6. To utilise the NUS Alcohol Impact Survey in the development of Student Unions and Societies.

Motion 311: Digital NUS Card

Conference believes

1. The physical NUS Extra Card is unnecessary for most students and cutting it out or cutting it down would reduce plastic waste



2. NUS Extra commission rates benefit Students' Unions with small block grants less than £10,000
3. The NUS Extra Card app allows for photo identification
4. The NUS Extra Card is managed by NUS Services Limited
5. The NUS Extra Card is rivalled by free service UNiDAYS who manage their discounts without a physical card
6. Companies such as Marks and Spencer have digital cards available on their app which can be scanned at the checkout

Conference further believes


1. NUS' mission on sustainability outlines that they 'will provide leadership on social responsibility and sustainability in the sector' and 'will research sector trends and deliver impactful change programmes'
2. Students' Unions can still have a role in registering users, but abolishing physical cards would save them time on printing
3. Northumbria Students' Union data shows that 3311 cards were sold online between August 2015 and July 2016, plus 447 sold in-person
4. Reduction of printing, plastic and transport of cards would be a positive sustainability win on a national scale
5. More app users would create opportunities to engage students through occasional promotion of key NUS messages
6. Students' Unions could gain more footfall from the app by introducing discounts in their own venues

Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate the Vice President Union Development to lobby NUS Services Limited Board to:
 - a. Upgrade the NUS Extra App to allow for a digital card
 - b. Phase out the physical NUS Extra Card over the next 3 years
 - c. Work closely with ISIC to negotiate if this will work, and if not, implement a system where those who request ISIC can have a physical card delivered to them on request.

Motion 405: Work Work Work Work Work

Conference believes

1. NUS research shows that 3 out of 4 full time undergraduate students take out paid employment to make ends meet, in term time and/or during the holidays.
 2. On average, students work 14 hours a week during term time but 29% work for more than 17 hours a week to fund their studies.
 3. Almost half of all students who work believe it impacts negatively on their studies.
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4. Student support is limited for students studying in their final year
5. Many students (final year and otherwise) have difficulty and face delays accessing student support.

Conference further believes

1. It is outrageous that anyone should be paid less than the minimum wage and that international students are suffering most.
2. It makes no sense for student support to decrease in the final year, when students are less able to put in the hours at a critical stage of their academic career.
3. Delays in accessing student support are unacceptable, and put many students in a position of further financial difficulty.
4. Trade Union membership is in long term decline and very low amongst the young
5. It is crucial that trade unionism adapts to new forms of precarious and temporary work.

Conference resolves

1. To work with the TUC to promote students' rights at work.
2. To work with the TUC to secure Trade union membership for all NUS Extra Cardholders
3. To explore the effects of government's immigration rules on the exploitation of international students in the casual labour market and campaign for change.
4. To work with the trade union movement to campaign for improved workplace rights and protections, especially for casual, temporary and agency workers.
5. NUS to lobby the SLC to make timely financial support a reality, and a request for equal final year student support arrangements.
6. To campaign for an increase in the minimum wage and highlight the breaches by employers to the Low Pay Commission. To campaign for an end to age discrimination in the minimum wage.
7. To work towards better proportionality in taxes and contributions paid by part-time students in employment, expecting reductions, not exemptions.
8. To further investigate the employment conditions of students, specifically postgraduate, and work towards guidelines for union-level support.

Motion 407: Food allergies are not a lifestyle choice

Conference believes

1. Many students suffer from allergies, but at present these are categorised as 'dietary requirements' and not as access requirements.
2. Food allergies differ from dietary requirements in so far as the individual suffering from an allergy has diagnosed health risks if they are brought into contact with these foods.
3. Students who suffer from allergies may incur greater costs in order to have a 'free from' diet.



4. HE and FE staff do not necessarily understand the access requirements of students suffering from allergies

Conference further believes

1. At present Student Unions and NUS do not know how best to support students suffering from allergies as they are unaware of the requirements needed.
2. Students who suffer from food allergies should be consulted so as to determine the most appropriate course of action to take in providing more extensive access needs for students who suffer from allergies.

Conference resolves

1. SU's should implement measures to reduce costs for products sold on campus specifically for individuals with food allergies.
2. Include allergy awareness in the health and safety training for halls of residence staff and raise awareness of necessary access requirements. This could be through working with networks such as the Anaphylaxis Campaign, which helps to support people at risk of severe allergies.
3. Ensure that Welfare officers are aware of these requirements and take a leading role in implementing changes where appropriate.
4. To encourage SU's to conduct a survey of its members to ascertain which food allergies are more prevalent and consult students in the best ways that SU's can assist students.

Motion 410: Accommodating religious students

Conference believes

1. In Judaism, the Jewish Sabbath begins on Friday afternoon/evening.
2. During the winter, the Sabbath can begin during university hours.
3. There are certain acts that religious Jews do not do on the Sabbath that include not writing, carrying, travelling, using electricity and handling money.
4. In Islam, Friday's communal prayers are obligatory for observant Muslims.
5. Friday prayer times are 12.45pm in the winter and 1.15pm in the summer. Students need to be there some time before for ablutions.
6. Jewish festivals, such as Shavuot, often fall during summer exam periods and have similar prohibitions that apply to the Jewish Sabbath.
7. Ramadan and other Muslim festivals and fast days fall during summer exam periods.

Conference further believes

1. Religious students can be deterred by unhelpful and unaccommodating HE and FE institutions from fully practising their religion.



2. HE and FE institutions often do not make necessary steps to reach out to religious students to ensure that their needs are catered for.
3. Students' Unions should be more accommodating when scheduling events, taking into account the needs of students of faith and belief.
4. Students can also be deterred from engaging in Students' Union activities if they are regularly scheduled on days that clash with religious festivals or fast days.

Conference resolves

1. To launch a campaign that would lobby HE and FE institutions to make sufficient changes to their timetabling that would
 - a. Ensure that no mandatory classes/lectures are scheduled on Friday afternoons, and where this is not possible they are recorded.
 - b. Ensure that extenuating circumstances or similar provisions are well publicised so that religious students are able to access it.
 - c. Include into summer exam timetabling provisions for students observing religious festivals, such as avoiding placing exams on certain days.
2. To work with faith and belief organisations to better understand the challenges facing students of faith and belief.
3. To work with Students' Unions and faith and belief organisations to ensure that their calendars are up-to-date with the various religious festivals.

Motion 413: Supporting students with financial hardship

Conference believes

1. Students in FE and HE institutions are subject to government reforms to education that financially impact on student's access to education.
2. Government cuts over the last couple of years have resulted in cuts to maintenance grants, NHS bursaries, EMA, a higher cost of living and institutional bursaries for students for low income and working-class families.
3. With the replacement of grants with loans, numerous sources have indicated a decrease in financial support for students, increased debt and the increasing strain of financial pressure on students.
4. Research shows there is a connection between debt, mental health issues and financial hardship. For example, an NUS UK wide survey has found a 63% increase in worries around finances and a 33% of participants were considering work that would impact on their mental health (e.g. night shifts)
5. According to the annual National Student Money survey, the maintenance loan leaves the average student "around £265 short each month".

Conference further believes

1. Education should be free and including all access and support during our education.



2. Financial support enables a better quality of life which all students should have a right to.
3. Students should not have to work in order to access education because of financial hardship.
4. Financial hardship negatively affects student's educational experiences, with an NUS 2012 research indicating financial pressures as a main driver for leaving education.

Conference resolves

1. NUS to calculate the sum of a living grant on the basis of the Living Wage Foundation's recommendations, taking into account certain benefits students have access to, e.g. council tax exemption.
2. NUS to conduct new research into the experiences of financial hardship in light of biggest government reforms to education, both FE and HE in recent years.
3. To work with FE and HE institutions in reviewing financial support packages currently offered.
4. NUS to challenge institutions to incorporate financial hardship into academic appeals, mitigating or extenuating circumstance and mental health support.

Motion 414: Right to pray

Conference believes

1. The provision of prayer space on campuses varies greatly, from adequate to inadequate and non-existent.
2. That all students of faith should be free to pray while on campus and provided with a safe, comfortable space in which to do it.
3. Since the introduction of Prevent, and the racial profiling that has come with it, prayer spaces have become a site for surveillance, with the Prevent Duty recommendations encouraging this.
4. That students themselves should be able to determine when, where and how they pray and use faith spaces – not university management, chaplains or the Government.
5. That monitoring student prayer spaces is unethical, breaches right to freedom of expression and given that Muslim students are more likely to make use of them – Islamophobic.
6. That students who have not followed strict, bureaucratic university procedure when using prayer spaces have been forced outside, praying in toilets, library corridors or the rain and snow. This is inhumane, degrading and disrespectful.
7. That some universities have worked towards 'neutralising' prayer spaces, going to lengths of destroying prayer mats and shredding Qur'ans without consulting with students or students' unions.

Conference resolves

1. To mandate the VP Welfare to work with student faith groups to launch a Right to Pray campaign that calls for statutory provision of prayer space in every college and university in the UK, approaching the Association of Colleges and Universities UK for support.



2. For NUS to produce guidance on best practise for prayer space in terms of provisions, opening hours and student autonomy.
3. For the VP welfare to support students who may face disciplinary action when avoiding surveillance while they pray – whether that means refusing to sign registers, masking cameras or otherwise.
4. To condemn the use of CCTV cameras in prayer rooms, the destruction of faith objects.
5. To oppose the use of university bureaucracy to dictate the terms of use of prayer spaces.
6. NUS to run to offer guidance on how student unions can lobby institutions to increase funding for students with financial hardship.

Motion 415: The generation game: Childcare and student parents

Conference believes

1. Students with children are lacking support in childcare.
2. Eligibility for part-time students to receive childcare funding or grants are not available.
3. Funding is only provided to those that have registered child-minders or nursery providers – these are often the more expensive providers.
4. Student parents are made to pay initial deposits for nursery out of their own pockets.
5. Student parents are unable to attend lessons consistently because of childcare issues.
6. The outcome of having to withdraw from a course due to the lack of childcare provisions could impact on the mental state of the Student parent which could cause implications to their welfare.

Conference resolves

1. For the VP Welfare to use their position on the Student Loans Company stakeholder group, and other relevant bodies, to lobby for more funding to be made available for student parents to contribute to childcare.
2. For the VP Welfare to work with the VP Union Development in approaching childcare providers and seeking a student discount deal through NUS Extra.
3. NUS to call for unregistered child-minders (family and friends) to receive payment as incentives for looking after children whilst parents are studying or work placements.

Motion 416: Who Cares? We care- Care leavers in Education

Conference believes

1. Children and Young People who have been looked after (“in care”) are more likely to see the inside of a prison than the inside of a university.
2. The who Cares? Trust has produced an HE handbook for care leavers, a guide which sets out exactly what universities and colleges across England and Scotland offer care experienced students.



3. Looked after children face serious disruption in their education due to frequent moves.
4. Staff at our institutions are passionate about supporting care-experienced students but lack clear guidance on how best to do this.

Conference resolves

1. For the Vice-President Welfare to work with The Who Cares? Trust and ensure that all HE institutions in the UK are represented in future editions of the HE handbook, and to work with them to produce a version for FE.
2. NUS to lobby all relevant funding bodies to embed statutory support for care leavers.

Motion 418: Student Pastoral care

Conference believes

1. Nightline systems are extremely important tools for students to use when they need support outside of university hours.
2. Not all Students' Unions can afford or have the infrastructure for such a system.

Conference further believes

1. Students all over the country should have access to out of hour's pastoral care.

Conference resolves

1. To set up or support an initiative that provides students nationally with out of hours pastoral support as some Students' unions lack adequate funding or resource to achieve an 'in-house' system.

Motion 419: International students safety

Conference believes

1. Students are often victims of crime
2. That International Students' are often targeted for crimes such a burglary, scams and robbery.
3. Students Unions have seen that International students are less likely to report crime.

Conference further believes

1. That Student Unions should provide tailored support for International Students who are disproportionately targeted
2. That Students' Union should provide advice and support which is accessible for International Students

Conference resolves

1. To support Student Unions to launch campaigns raising awareness of crime targeting International Students.
2. To work with relevant organization to provide tailored support and advice for International Students



3. To support the NUS International Students Campaign on this matter.

Motion 422: Stop social media scams

Conference believes

1. During fresher's season, many different social media pages are set up by organisations/companies unrelated to universities/students' unions that advertise fresher's events allegedly being held at these same universities/students' unions.
2. A large number of these social media pages are scams to either sell students fake tickets, therefore stealing their money, or to get students to fill out a survey that will therefore steal their personal data. Students that partake in activity with fake social media pages will not get the product/event in return as promised.

Conference further believes

1. New intake students are particularly vulnerable and are therefore easily caught out by the scams that are spread via social media. When in the process of preparing to move to university, students tend to be enthusiastic about getting involved in fresher's events and will therefore be drawn in by these events and scams.
2. Many students, particularly new intake students, may be unaware of how university/students' union events are run/ticketed and will therefore be naïve to the scams in which they are partaking. This concern extends particularly to international students, as they are preparing to move to a different culture where they may not understand the possibility of such scams.
3. Moving to university is a stressful enough time for new students and finances can be difficult to manage at the best of times, therefore it is damaging for new students to be scammed out of money.
4. Currently, there is nothing that university/students' union marketing teams can do to stop these social media scams, due to the social media sites terms and conditions and because of the flawed system of reporting such scams. Students' unions can campaign to warn students of the dangers of these events, however this is not enough.

Conference resolves

1. NUS should lobby with the relevant social media sites in order to reduce the risk of such scams taking place – to alter the way in which such cases are reported, removed and prosecuted.
2. NUS should work to raise more awareness of such issues amongst students.
3. NUS should give more guidance to students' union marketing teams on how to best resolve such situations.

Motion 424: Dealing with Debt

Conference believes



1. Many institutions have had longstanding regulations allowing them to apply academic sanctions to students to recover non-academic debt. This could mean students who have already paid thousands of pounds in fees being denied graduation, restricted access to services or even thrown off their course for falling behind on the rent or having unpaid library fees.
2. In 2013, NUS filed a complaint to the OFT (Office of Fair Trading), now CMA (Consumer and Markets Authority), against institutions who employed such regulations.
3. After an investigation, the OFT ruled in NUS' favour and ruled this practice as 'unfair, aggressive and probably illegal'.

Conference further believes

1. There is evidence that some institutions have still not changed their policies in light of this ruling and are still placing unfair sanctions on students.
2. If institutions didn't charge such extortionate rent on their accommodation less students would fall into debt and behind on payments.
3. Institutions should treat students like individuals, providing support where needed, and not as a block number with a price tag attached to them.

Conference resolves

1. To undertake a review of institutions in breach of the CMA ruling.
2. The name and shame institutions in breach of the ruling and report them to the CMA.
3. To provide students' unions with support to successfully lobby their institutions to implement a fair approach to handling non-academic debt.

Motion 425: Stop doing over our nursing students

Conference believes

1. Following the scrapping of NHS Bursaries, English applications to British Nursing and Midwifery courses fell 23%.
2. These courses consistently score below average in the NSS.
3. Placements reduce access to union and university support.
4. Failure and dropout rates are high. Students report inadequate academic and wellbeing support.
5. The last NUS Charter for Nursing and Midwifery students was published 22 years ago.
6. Neither the relevant QAA nor NMC's education standards mention student support, representation or social activity.
7. Nursing and Midwifery Students contribute to NHS services without employment rights or financial compensation.
8. The NUS must act to support student Nurses and Midwives.
9. There are huge problems with academic failure and lack of support for nursing students, across all institutions



10. Many nurses and midwives 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
11. Nursing 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
12. Students on nursing courses are often mature, with dependents and many institutions fail support those with these and other additional needs
13. Nursing failure and dropout rates are at epidemic levels, institutions average a 20% drop out rate but some report up to 50%²⁸
14. 'In 2015 the average dropout rate for student nurses at university in England was 20 per cent, with some schools experiencing up to 50 per cent attrition.³⁴ The impact of this both monetarily and also in terms of ensuring that there are adequate carers entering the system has led Lord Phil Willis to brand attrition rates the "Achilles heel of the nursing world."³⁵ The value of student nurses needs to be re-emphasised and those that are already training need to be effectively and properly supported to ensure they complete the course. In one interview a student nurse highlighted the difficulties that she and many others face. She described how courses "cram so much in, it can become very stressful," how "there doesn't seem to be much communication between placement and university," and also that: *"you have to be extremely strong emotionally and physically to be a nurse... Although we had practical lessons to prepare us for our placements, many of the students, including myself, did not know what to expect from working in a hospital."* ³⁶
15. Whilst on placement there is the added pressure to meet the demands submitting and preparing for assessments leads to academic failure, misconduct and stress
16. Nursing students can be course terminated through the means of 'fitness to practice'

Conference further believes

1. Nursing bursaries have been scrapped with barely an adequate response from NUS
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 22 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

Conference resolves

1. To address Nursing and Midwifery students specifically in future reviews of NUS governance.
2. To improve campus integration, including in student unions' sports clubs, societies and other services.
3. To work with all relevant trade unions to

²⁸ www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/specialisms/educators/review-identifies-vital-need-to-find-out-why-student-nurses-drop-out/5083209.article

- a. Improve wellbeing support for student Nurses and Midwives
 - b. Campaign for increased financial support for these students, including an upfront allowance for placement expenses.
 - c. Lobby Universities to adapt placement allocation to the needs of student carers, family cohesion and professional development.
 - d. Lobby for future versions of the NMC code to uphold freedom of expression and the right to personal life; removing restrictions on media co-operation and relaxing professional behaviour regulations, allowing student nurses to express themselves freely online (excluding hate speech/misconduct).
 - e. Create a national charter of rights for Student Nurses and Midwives
 - f. To hold a national summit on representation of Nursing and Midwifery students in conjunction with Unison, the RCN and the RCM
 - g. To lobby the NMC and other bodies to improve the standard of student representation, student social facilities and student wellbeing delivered by HEIs as a key part of nursing education standards
 - h. Support student whistle-blowers
 - i. Campaign for all UK Nursing and Midwifery curriculums to explore the health needs of minority groups.
 - j. Lobby Universities to improve their absence and "fitness to practice" policies so that disabled students in these fields do not suffer discrimination.
 - k. Respond to proposals for NHS staff to enforce "health-tourism" regulations.
 - l. protect placements and future jobs for current nursing students
4. To carry out research into the student experience of students on Nursing and Midwifery courses
 5. To research the viability of the remuneration of student nurses for the hours undertaken on placement, which constitutes approximately 50% of the contact hours during their degree.
 6. To campaign to expose the failure of student funding policy for nursing and reverse the changes
 7. To look at integration of nursing across many Unions and their campuses to increase nursing representation

Motion 427: The far-right is alive and well; we must unite to stop it

Conference believes

1. NUS must actively campaign against racism, islamophobia, antisemitism and fascism as these are dangers which threaten the welfare of millions of students.
2. In November 2016, we marked the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street, which brought the Jewish and Irish communities, local workers and local Labour and Communist parties together to defeat Oswald Mosely and the British Union of Fascists.



3. As wars continue to take place across the world and millions are displaced as refugees, a considerable wave of anti-migrant and anti-minority rhetoric is sweeping across Europe.
4. In 2017 there are elections taking place in a number of European countries where far-right candidates and parties have a strong chance of winning.
5. Campuses have often been the place in recent years where fascism and the far-right rear its head: in recent months Holocaust denial literature has been distributed at Cambridge and UCL and swastikas have been daubed on halls of residences and university signs. Swastikas were also found at Durham, Goldsmiths and Coventry².
6. In June, the University of Leicester saw a banner promoting an Eid festival painted with the words 'F*** Islam'³.
7. In the last year we have a rise in the number of attacks on migrants, especially following Brexit where only days after, xenophobic graffiti was found scrawled across the doors of the Polish Social and Cultural Association in Hammersmith⁵.
8. In June 2016, Jo Cox MP was murdered by far-right extremist Thomas Mair who was then jailed for life in November 2016⁶.
9. In 2016, the Community Security Trust recorded 1,309 anti-Semitic incidents nationwide, their highest annual total, which was a 36% increase from the 960 incidents recorded in 2015⁷.
10. In December 2016, National Action became the first extreme far-right group to be proscribed as a terrorist organisation⁸.
11. Despite this, the group are still appearing on campuses. In the past year they have been at Nottingham and Leicester, using stickers with the phrase: "Hitler was right"⁹. They have also been known to harass Jewish students on social media.
12. Years of austerity and neo-liberal economic agendas are leaving people desperate for change, and neo-fascist political parties and people are taking advantage of people's economic hardships to scapegoat people of colour, migrants, Muslims and Jewish people. In particular, this can be seen in the British vote for Brexit, the United States vote for Trump and the popularity of far right political parties across Western Europe. Following these events, the threat of discrimination and violence against marginalised groups has severely increased, as demonstrated by the spike in hate crimes reported in the UK¹⁰.
13. As a national movement that has historically been a progressive voice for change, the NUS has a responsibility to protect student in liberation groups and international students against this increased threat.
14. Racism and fascism continue to be prevalent in our society.
15. The election of Donald Trump has legitimised racist rhetoric which we must stand against, especially his ban on Muslims from entering the United States.
16. The far-right are on the rise across Europe and it is our responsibility to stand firm against it.
17. Incidents of islamophobia, antisemitism and xenophobia have increased in the last year.



Conference further believes

1. It is the right of a minority group to define their own oppression as per the Macpherson principle.
2. It is crucial that NUS has a strong and well-functioning ARAF campaign.
3. In a time of rising islamophobia, racism, antisemitism and xenophobia, it is more urgent than ever to develop this area of work.
4. Currently the ARAF campaign has limited resources to be able to fully combat racism and fascism.
5. Combatting racism and fascism must be at the heart of NUS' work.
6. University campuses, colleges, and sixth forms should be environments free from hate, intolerance, and prejudice.
7. It is unacceptable for any individuals or communities to become a physical target purely on the basis of their religious or racial identity.
8. Students' Unions and universities have a duty of care and protection to all their members' safety both on and off campus.
9. The NUS has a proud history of standing up to racist and fascist groups. The British National Party, the English Defence League, and National Action, are currently No Platformed by NUS.

Conference resolves

1. To reaffirm its commitment to campaigning against racism, fascism, xenophobia, antisemitism, and islamophobia, wherever it may manifest, in our movement and in wider society
2. To unequivocally support the principle that those who face anti-Semitism, racism and islamophobia should be the ones who lead the fight against it
3. To reaffirm NUS' No Platform for Fascists policy and continue to campaign for its full implementation within NUS and all Students' Unions.
4. We should oppose state bans of organisations, including fascist organisations, as these strengthen the state's repressive powers, which are mostly used against the left, anti-racists and oppressed groups. As far right groups aim to take control of the state and use it against the left and oppressed groups, it is vital that the left does not strengthen the repressive power of the state and organises to oppose fascism without relying on it.
5. We must recognise that any level of fascist organisation represents a physical threat to us. We must seek to stop fascists marching and holding rallies, including through physical confrontation where necessary.
6. To ensure that the NUS ARAF Campaign is appropriately resourced to enable it to be a fully-functioning, year-round campaign that isn't simply a one-day conference.
7. To provide guidance to Students' Unions on the threat of the far-right and support them if incidents involving the far-right take place on their campuses. 29

²⁹ 2 jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/holocaust-denial-leaflets-distributed-on-uk-campuses/, www.thejc.com/education/student/student-concern-over-spate-of-antisemitic-graffiti-at-london-university-1.62409, www.thesun.co.uk/news/1198255/sick-vandals-daub-swastikas-ss-symbols-and-auschwitz-on-student-accommodation/, antisemitism.uk/coventry-university-calls-in-police-after-swastika-found/
3 jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/holocaust-denial-leaflets-distributed-on-uk-campuses/
www.thejc.com/education/student/student-concern-over-spate-of-antisemitic-graffiti-at-london-university-1.62409

8. To ensure NUS remains committed to fighting racism and fascism and to work with liberation and faith groups to achieve this.
9. To ensure that Students' Unions, academic institutions and campus security teams are educated and aware of the existence of far-right and fascist groups on campus.
10. Legitimising fascist ideology poses a real threat to millions of students, especially those who fall under liberation groups. NUS needs to support Students' Unions in refusing to promote fascist ideology where legally possible - including supporting Students' Unions in their involvement in localised campaigns.
11. NUS need to support Students' Unions in raising awareness and supporting discussion of antifascism.
12. The NUS need to commit to resisting PREVENT - which is a fascist and racist monitoring system of people who dissent from nationalist "British values", and provide support for students who are affected by it.
13. Further, the NUS needs to commit to actively organising around antifascism - including willingness to support and work with existing organisations committed to this cause and to continue the annual ARAF conference.
14. Lastly, the NUS needs to prioritise and centralise liberation work in including resistance against racism, antisemitism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia and ableism - recognising the support needed by student and groups most likely to be effected by fascism

Motion 429: Gendered Islamophobia

Conference believes

1. Islamophobia is on the rise throughout society¹¹.
2. Muslim women face the sharpest manifestations of overt Islamophobia, particularly visibly Muslim women, facing verbal and physical assaults, and constant attacks on their choice of clothing.
3. The state's relationship with Muslim women is also fraught and inconsistent.
4. They are often used as a vehicle for furthering the government's counter-terrorism agenda, meanwhile, they also find themselves the object of that same agenda, accused of fostering a climate of "extremism" within their family homes.
5. In the eyes of the state, Muslim women are somehow both 'traditionally submissive' and 'the enemy within'.

¹ www.thesun.co.uk/news/1198255/sick-vandals-daub-swastikas-ss-symbols-and-auschwitz-on-student-accommodation/

² antisemitism.uk/coventry-university-calls-in-police-after-swastika-found/

³ twitter.com/Leics_AHS/status/748153875610411008/photo/1

⁴ www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-36634621

⁵ www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-36550304

⁶ cst.org.uk/data/file/b/e/Incidents%20Report%202016.1486376547.pdf

⁷ www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/12/neo-nazi-group-national-action-banned-by-uk-home-secretary

⁸ www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/11/03/jewish-student-brave-stand-anti-semitism-vile-trolling-twitter_n_8461808.html

⁹ www.thesun.co.uk/news/2377346/vile-new-hitler-youth-threaten-gun-violence-and-jewish-genocide-as-they-recruit-impressionable-supporters-online/

¹⁰ www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38976087 and www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/brexit-hate-crimes-racism-eu-referendum-vote-attacks-increase-police-figures-official-a7358866.html

¹¹ www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38976087

6. Ofsted's former Chief Inspector has supported restrictions on the niqab/veil for Muslim women at schools and encouraged the down-marking of schools by inspectors in certain circumstances where they permit the niqab¹².

Conference further believes

1. Islamophobia is legitimised through the categorisation of the 'good Muslim' - i.e. the passive, unquestioning subject - vs the 'bad Muslim' - those seeking to challenge state oppression.
2. These dichotomies have emerged within NUS and the student movement - in tackling Islamophobia, we should never seek to legitimise racist binaries, or adopt the language of the oppressive state.
3. Incidents of Islamophobia often go un-reported, due to (understandable) mistrust between Muslim communities and the police/state.

Conference resolves

1. Work with the Black Students Campaign, Women's Campaign, FOSIS and relevant Muslim student groups to conduct research into the experiences of Muslim women in education.
2. Campaign against any measures seeking to restrict Muslim women students' right to choose the niqab, hijab, or other articles expressing their faith.

Motion 430: Students suspending studies are some of the most vulnerable students in the country. We need to support them!

Conference believes

1. The amount of students that are suffering from mental health problems in the UK can be as high as 1 in 413.
2. This number significantly increases with regards to students who self-identify from a liberation group.
3. The NHS budget towards mental health only accounts for 13% percent of the entire budget.
4. Universities are not prioritising the issue of student mental health making students turn to measures which can include the suspension of their studies.

Conference further believes

1. Many Students' Unions have very little policy on whether suspended students retain their membership while suspended, meaning that in some cases they lose their membership.
2. The loss of membership to a Union means students cannot vote or run in elections, take part in committee positions or hold a part time job in the building.
3. Unions can play a pivotal role in making sure suspended students receive the right support and guidance.
4. Not being a member of a Union and receiving support could have dire consequences involving students never returning to their studies.

Conference resolves

1. For NUS to work with Unions in developing policy to support suspended students to take part in their activities.
2. For NUS to make a commitment to suspended students that they're voices will not be forgotten.
3. For Unions who wish to adopt policy on or support suspended students to liaise with the University of Leicester Students' Union and others that have made commitments for suspended students to retain their memberships of their Unions.

Motion 431: No discrimination in campus

Conference believes

1. Students coming from different backgrounds expect to treat them fairly
2. Higher education institutions have a responsibility to ensure that they provide a safe and inclusive environment and act swiftly so that students do not face discrimination, harassment or victimisation
3. In 2011, a report by the National Union of Students (NUS) found that one in six black students had experienced racism at their institution, and one third did not trust their university to handle complaints properly

Conference further believes

1. All students can contribute to economic development of a country and so fair representation to all students in friendly environment is quite important

Conference resolves

1. To ensure equal opportunity to all students, it is quite important to formulate welfare policies for students coming from different background and promote prominent liberation campaign

Motion 433: Drug education for the nation

Conference believes

1. Students are expected to take reasonable care of their own health and safety, and that of others around them. Universities and Students' Unions are equally expected to take all reasonable measures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of students
2. Many accommodations, and hospitality services have 'Illegal Drugs (Zero Tolerance) Policies' (hereafter Zero Tolerance Policy) which can allow for:
 - a. Eviction from student accommodation, or other disciplinary responses, for first-time possession of illegal drugs.
 - b. Immediate entry into student rooms to establish the possession or sale of illegal drugs based on allegations or suspicions of drug use.
 - c. The use of alcohol, tobacco, nitrous oxide, inhalants and novel psychoactive substances (i.e. legal highs) without consequence or sufficient concern for the health and wellbeing of students.



- d. The stigmatisation of students who use illicit drugs.
- 3. Drug testing kits that detect the presence of adulterants allow students to know what substances they are taking and in doing so support the NHS in identifying appropriate treatments should a person become sick.
- 4. Despite the Psychoactive Substances Bill, NSP's are still widely (and illegally) sold online and available within university campuses.
- 5. The Bill does not seek to prosecute those simply in possession of the substances but instead targets individuals involved in the sale and distribution of NSP's.

Conference further believes

- 1. Universities and Students' Unions should treat students with, fairness, dignity and respect.
- 2. The Drug Policies in conference notes 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d do not sufficiently achieve its Policy Aims, notably to:
 - a. Give specific and sufficient notice
 - b. Be a deterrent to illegal drug use
 - c. Get students to contact emergency services in a drug-related emergency
 - d. Students should know what substances they are using
- 3. Individuals' health and wellbeing should be prioritised by not prosecuting NSP users who are simply in possession of the substance; it is nonsensical to disproportionately punish users of soft drugs such as cannabis, despite no reported fatalities and considerable evidence supporting its medicinal benefit.
- 4. NUS represents students who use cannabis medicinally and recreationally, these students are in breach of the law and are voiceless in having their arguments heard despite a number of other countries moving towards decriminalisation and the legalisation of medicinal cannabis.

Conference resolves

1. To mandate NUS to work with SSDP to create guidelines for evidence-based drug policies, focusing on wellbeing.
2. To mandate NUS to work with SSDP in creating a challenge drug zero tolerance campaign.
3. To mandate NUS to negotiate discounts on Drug Testing Kits for Students' Unions to purchase.
4. To mandate NUS to conduct a survey into the medicinal and recreational usage of cannabis to present to Government.

Normal NEC Resolutions

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

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.

Motion 2a:

NEC believes

1. Also often downplayed or omitted is the history of active resistance to slavery, both by slaves themselves and by grassroots solidarity movements – such as the mass protests against British intervention in favour of the South in the US Civil War by Lancashire textile workers and others who the ruling class wrongly expected to back war and slavery to defend their jobs.

NEC resolves

1. To highlight the inspiring history of grassroots resistance to slavery and racism.



Motion 6: Fair representation on democratic procedures committee

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



Live Policy from NEC meetings 2017/18

Meeting date: 28 September 2017

Adding New Positions to the ARAF Committee

NEC believes

1. In 2016, a motion was passed at NEC to change the composition of the Anti-Racism, Anti-Fascism Committee
2. This included the introduction of several reserved places which were to be elected, including: Jewish member, Muslim member, Migrant member, LGBT+ member, as well as the Black Students Officer and the Black Students Campaign 2nd Place.
3. Not every liberation group currently has a reserved place on the ARAF committee.

NEC further believes

1. Fascism affects oppressed groups in different ways, moreover, fascist groups consciously target marginalised groups
2. That currently those who face oppression on several counts, may also not be adequately represented by the formation of the committee
3. That to ensure we are best placed to fight racism and fascism we must ensure representation of all affected on the ARAF Committee.
4. That representation is not being sought for its own sake, we seek to ensure that our struggles are joined together in the fight against racism and fascism.

NEC resolves

1. To introduce three new places onto the ARAF Committee: Disabled member, Trans member and Women's member.
2. These positions should be elected in the same fashion as the other reserved places: candidates should self-define into the particular group, and they should be elected by other self-defining members of said group.

SWP rape apologism

NEC believes

1. The SWP regularly turn up to nearly any and every popular cause or demonstration, including free education demonstrations in 2016, 2015 and 2014.

2. In 2013, it was alleged that abuse by 'Comrade Delta' had been covered up within the Socialist Workers Party.³⁰ In response hundreds left the party.³¹
3. Activists, particularly survivors of sexual violence, including student officers – both sabbatical and part-time women's officers, have organised locally and nationally against the SWP. This includes groups like SWP off Campus and Fuck the SWP.

NEC further believes

1. It is alleged that the SWP have a history of rape apologism.³²
2. NUS must stand in solidarity with those who have experienced sexual violence. This means circulating information on the history of the SWP's supposed rape apologism, not sharing platforms or otherwise organising with them.
3. That the NUS Women's Campaign have previously led on work supporting survivors of sexual violence and/or abuse. This is not only by virtue of representing women students but additionally through the expertise and experience of activists in the campaign.
4. The SWP, through their front organisations, come into contact with community groups who do not necessarily have ready access to information about their history of alleged abuse. This is particularly the case for community anti-racism organisations.
5. Given that smaller community organisations are specifically targeted by SWP and front groups, the focus of our campaigning against the SWP must focus largely on educating groups and individuals rather than casting people.
6. A variety of anti-racist and anti-fascist groups have issues with accountability and safeguarding in relation to rape, sexual assault and harassment. This is not something that is limited to the SWP.

NEC resolves

1. For funds to be allocated to the Women's Campaign from the Welfare Zone, to continue to develop and distribute materials for students and community organisations about the alleged history of the SWP, explaining why NUS does not work with them, and why students should not pick up their placards at events.
2. To distribute the Salvage Collective report and toolkit Gendered Violence in activist communities in its work on tackling rape and abuse apologism
3. To support the efforts of officers and students organising against the SWP because of the accusations made against the SWP;
4. To provide practical support to officers and activists especially in situations where the SWP control positions in local trade unions and community organisations.

³⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/mar/09/socialist-workers-party-rape-kangaroo-court>, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/feb/08/socialist-workers-party-rape-investigation>

³¹ <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2014/05/comrades-war-decline-and-fall-socialist-workers-party>
<https://www.newstatesman.com/laurie-penny/2013/01/laurie-penny-what-does-swps-way-dealing-sexual-assault-allegations-tell-us-about>

³² <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/mar/09/socialist-workers-party-rape-kangaroo-court>
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/feb/08/socialist-workers-party-rape-investigation>

5. To ensure that NUS officers do not speak at SWP events or events run by their fronts^{33 34}
6. To support the efforts of sabbatical officers and students who are working to stop the SWP from being invited to their campus by producing flyers and information on their history and why not to pick up their placards.
7. NUS should do research into other anti-racist, anti-fascist groups not linked to the SWP, to distribute to NUS FTO's and Students' Unions, for them to work with as an alternative to known SWP front organization anti-racist groups.

Meeting date: 6 December 2017

Support SUs in the fight against marketisation

NEC believes

1. Over the past year, the government introduced a series of reforms to higher education.
2. At their heart is the Teaching Excellence Framework which ranks universities Bronze, Silver and Gold according to a set of metrics including the National Student Survey (NSS) and graduate earnings.
3. The HE reforms and TEF are already causing job cuts in multiple universities, for example in Manchester where over 100 redundancies have been announced³⁵, explicitly citing changes to HE policy as a reason. Previous moves towards marketisation since 2010 have also contributed towards recent job cuts.
4. In 2016, NUS National Conference passed a policy to boycott the NSS until the TEF is scrapped and the HE reforms are withdrawn. NUS still has a democratic mandate to lead on the boycott and the wider campaign against marketisation.
5. In at least 12 institutions, NSS response rates dropped below 50% as a result of the boycott, making the results unusable. In many others, response rates have also fallen significantly.
6. The boycott was widely reported in the media and mentioned in parliamentary debates around the Higher Education and Research Act.
7. In 2017, Theresa May announced that tuition fees for the following academic year would not go up. However, there has been no guarantee that the freeze will continue for future years or that TEF and fees will be delinked.
8. The NSS itself has been discredited as a measure of teaching quality, including by the Royal Statistical Society. Its results have also been proven to reflect racial bias.³⁶³⁷
9. In August, over 70 student activists, SU officers and NUS committee members signed an open letter committing to running NSS boycott campaigns on their campuses and calling on NUS to lead the campaign nationally.³⁸

³³ <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/donald-trump-socialist-workers-party-swp-stand-up-to-racism-kangaroo-court-a7563191.html>

³⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyvqeJZcFEk>, <https://twitter.com/antiracismday/status/604613398832287744> <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/confronting-the-rise-in-racism-stand-up-to-racism-national-conference-2016-tickets-26640628838#>

¹ <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/8775/Over-900-jobs-at-risk-at-University-of-Manchester-as-university-announces-major-cuts>

³⁶ <https://www.rss.org.uk/Images/PDF/influencing-change/2016/RSS-response-to-BIS-Technical-Consultation-on-Teaching-Excellence-Framework-year-2.pdf>

³ <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/biased-students-give-bme-academics-lower-nss-scores-says-study>

⁴ <http://anticuts.com/2017/08/22/nss-boycott-open-letter-to-nus-leadership/>

10. TEF not only does not adequately measure teaching quality, it is a threat to higher education as we know it and needs to be resisted by any means available to us.
11. TEF means universities are chasing metrics and not meaningfully improving standards for students or staff.
12. Successful NSS boycott campaigns at multiple universities forced TEF and wider higher education policy onto the national agenda.
13. The NSS boycott contributed towards the government temporarily severing the link between TEF and tuition fees.
14. The government's efforts to limit the effects of the boycott, by halving the weight of NSS as a metric and using data from previous years in institutions where response rates fall below 50%, are meant to discourage students from boycotting the survey. This shows that the leverage is effective and the student movement cannot afford to give up.
15. The government and university managers need NSS results not only to implement the TEF, but to manage the already-existing marketisation of the university system. By refusing to fill it out, we can therefore disrupt their business and gain leverage that helps students push them to concede to our campaign.
16. NSS turnout or results should never be tied to SU funding. Such blackmail from some universities is a despicable attack on union autonomy. It is a duty of NUS to defend any SU that receives threats of funding cuts because of participating in the national campaign.

NEC resolves

1. To release a statement and contact every HE union in NUS reaffirming NUS' support for the NSS boycott.
2. To provide resources for SUs, including flyers promoting the NSS boycott and a toolkit on running an effective boycott campaign.
3. To campaign for union funding not to be tied to NSS and to work with and support every SU that faces threats of funding cuts in relation to the NSS. Political blackmail through block grant cuts is a concern to all SUs, so we must respond with solidarity: we will support and help build action up to and including mobilising demonstrations on affected campuses if appropriate.

Support our staff – stop attacks on pensions

NEC believes

1. There are multiple pension schemes for staff across FE and HE. All have faced round after round of attacks designed to reduce the payments that staff can expect in retirement, compared to what they put in. The attacks on different schemes are used to play against one another – one scheme is



undermined, then members of another are told that they must accept attacks in theirs as it is unfairly better than the first – this continues in circles so that nobody wins except the employers. So to defend any part of the education system we have to defend all of them.

2. Currently under attack is the USS pension – for academic staff mainly in pre-92 universities. The employers' consortium, UUK, has announced that they want to end defined benefits. This means removing all guarantees on how much payouts will be after retirement, leaving retired staff entirely at the mercy of the pension fund's stock market gambles.³⁹
3. The pension scheme's own analysis shows that the employers could muster the funds to avoid this and keep guarantees on pension payouts¹. Employers have cut the proportion of their budgets spent on staff by 5% in the past 10 years – it is their choice to cut investment in education workers, not a necessity.⁴⁰
4. Valuations that claim the USS fund is on shaky ground, and used to spread panic and justify cuts to pension payouts, have been widely criticised as based on poor methodology – using the wrong measures to predict future performance⁴¹ and using what the Leeds UCU President called a "zombie apocalypse" assumption – imagining that every single pre-92 university was going to shut simultaneously tomorrow, leaving the scheme to pay all former staff's future pensions with no new income.⁴²
5. A ballot for major industrial action will be voted on by UCU members in the period 27 Nov to 19 Jan¹.
6. NUS Conference has previously voted that our default position should be to back industrial action by education workers, because we understand that working conditions and teaching quality are so closely tied, and because we understand that the alliance of solidarity between students and education workers is vital to our own campaigns.
7. These attacks are avoidable and unjust. No worker should be subjected to financial precarity; all deserve the security of a decent retirement.
8. Removing guarantees on payouts is about shifting financial risk away from the collective onto the individual, and away from the employers to the workers. This makes it easier to package up groups of workers, lift them out, and outsource them, and makes it more attractive for private companies to snap up such offers since associated pension liabilities have been reduced. In short, this will make further aggressive privatisation easier.
9. When staff are mistreated, demoralised, and overstretched trying to make ends meet, education suffers. Moreover, talented staff could be forced to consider leaving for jobs where they are treated better.
10. These attacks will be most damaging to workers at the beginning of their careers, including our members such as PhD students looking to begin research careers. And we all have a long-term interest in halting and reversing the erosion of pensions across the labour market.

³⁹ <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/9074/UCU-warns-of-chaos-on-campus-if-pension-row-not-resolved>

⁴⁰ <https://www.ucu.org.uk/strikeforuss>

⁴¹ https://www.ucu.org.uk/uss_futurefundingletter

⁴² <http://studentsunionucl.org/defendpensions>

11. The stronger our support for our staff, and the sooner we commit it, the stronger their campaign will be and the sooner we can force the employers to give in – and so the sooner any industrial action can end with a positive resolution, benefitting both students and workers.

NEC resolves

1. To mandate the VPHE and President to write immediately and publicly to UCU pledging our support for their campaign, and for any industrial action they are forced to undertake by the employers' greed and stubbornness.
2. To mandate the VPHE and President to write to the USS pension scheme and the UUK employers' consortium urging them to drop these damaging proposals and to instead reverse the last several years of attacks on education workers' pensions.
3. To work with the NUS Postgrad Section and the UCU's Casualised Members' section to support our postgrad members to get active in their trade union (which is now free – membership dues are zero for postgrad workers) and help them defend their future pensions.
4. To brief SUs on the situation, why we need to support our staff, and what SUs can do to help.
5. In the event of industrial action NUS should produce materials including posters and leaflets that SUs can use to help explain to students what is happening and why our staff need support, and we should endeavour to bolster our staff's picket lines and protests with our support.

A New Approach to Teaching Excellence

NEC believes

1. That the government has implemented a Teaching Excellence Framework in Higher Education which ranks Universities as either gold, silver or bronze
2. That the current government intends to implement the TEF at subject level
3. That a consortium of 24 NUS member organisations have conducted joint research into the student perspective on teaching excellence, taking into account the perspectives of 9,000 students⁴³
4. This research proves that whilst students believe that the government should be ensuring teaching quality, any measures should not be linked to fees
5. 50% of students would have re-considered applying to their university if they had known it was bronze and 6% of students would have not applied or reconsidered had their university been rated gold
6. 11% of students from an ethnic minority background would have reconsider or not have applied to their university if it had been rated as gold
7. that this data will be invaluable as a submission into the independent TEF review expected in the next academic year, alongside NUS's scheduled work to set out the positive vision for Teaching Excellence

NEC further believes

⁴³ <http://wonkhe.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/tef-pr-research-report.pdf>

1. There are many negative consequences to the current government policy on teaching excellence
2. Many of these consequences could prove truly catastrophic for the HE and wider Education sectors
3. That NUS should be carrying out research to empower both its officers and its member unions to make strong arguments on a national and local level
4. That while slogans such as 'TEF Off' and national demonstrations will always be an important part of NUS's campaign armoury we also need to ensure that we have cutting edge, high quality evidence to use

NEC resolves

1. To welcome the research and to use it to develop the next stages of the campaign against the Teaching Excellence Framework
2. To renew our campaign against the current direction of policy and the TEF in particular using evidence to underpin our campaign
3. To use all available resources and measures of student opinion to try to impact government policy
4. To reaffirm our opposition to a link between TEF and tuition fees

Supporting Mature Students

NEC believes

1. Part-time student numbers have fallen by 40% since 2010. ⁴⁴
2. Mature students make up nearly 90% of part time students. ⁴⁵
3. Mature students are more likely to leave higher education within a year of entering. ¹¹
4. Mature students are more likely to be disabled, BAME, or from a low socio-economic background in comparison to 18-21-year-old undergraduates. ¹¹
5. A significant portion of mature students drop out of University due to financial hardship. ¹¹
6. Mature students are less likely to receive comprehensive advice on student finance and financial support while at University. ¹¹

NEC further believes

1. The wider HE community is not doing enough to support and retain mature students in higher education and are often forgotten in preference to undergraduates.
2. That everyone deserves the opportunity to a fair and accessible education, no matter their situation or background.
3. Financial support for students should be based on students' needs rather by the type of course they do or the level they are studying at.

⁴⁴ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21769963>

⁴⁵ https://www.nus.org.uk/pagefiles/12238/2012_nus_millionplus_never_too_late_to_learn.pdf

NEC resolves

1. To advocate for targeted mature student support on a national and institutional level.
2. To lobby for more flexible modes of study for students in HE in order to give mature students easier access to courses.
3. To campaign for student financial reform specifically for mature students, based on need rather than mode of study.

Meeting date: 8 Febuary 2018

Motion 201: 1 Day Without Us

NEC believes

1. Since the Brexit vote, xenophobia and racism have become increasingly legitimised, and migration has been blamed for legitimate social issues such as unemployment and the worsening state of the National Health Service.^{46,47}
2. On February 17th, 2018, a national day of action will take place called One Day Without Us.
3. This day of action was previously supported at NEC 8th December 2016 and subsequently held on February 20th, 2017, resulting in over 160 events across the country.
4. Migrants of all kinds, people with a history of migration and those who support migrants and migration are planning this day of action to celebrate migrants and migration to the UK.
5. The reason that this event remains necessary is profound concern about worsening attitudes to migrants and migration in the UK.

NEC further believes

1. We must fight back against escalating attacks on migrants and restrictions on migration from the government, and against wider societal prejudice, and against the exploitation of migrant workers.
2. The aim of the day of action is to celebrate the people of all nationalities and genders who have made the UK their home, including British citizens who may not necessarily identify as migrants but who have a history of migration in their family, and the contributions that migration has made to British society.
3. Migrant protests have been hugely empowering and effective in other contexts, for instance in the United States.
4. It is absolutely legitimate to cause disruption to fight oppression and injustice.

NEC resolves

1. To support One Day Without Us, sending a message of solidarity to the organisers and signing on to their statement of support.

⁴⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/27/brexit-racism-eu-referendum-racist-incidents-politicians-media>

⁴⁷ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-vote-has-led-to-noticeable-rise-in-uk-xenophobia-watchdog-warns-a7343646.html>

2. To provide advice and guidance to students and unions regarding the participation of international students in this day of action and protests like it.
3. To promote One Day Without Us to students and unions, helping to build turnout and maximise its presence on social media and in the press.
4. To ensure universities and colleges are at the heart of the day of action, highlighting the difference international students and migrant academics and non-academic workers make to our academic and vocational communities of learning as well as the wider society.

Motion 202: The Office for... Marketisation?

NEC believes

1. The Office for Students was set up to implement the Teaching Excellence Framework and to promote choice and value for money.⁴⁸
2. NUS has policy to resist marketisation and to support free education.
3. NUS's strategy on the OFS so far has been to demand student representation.
4. The appointment of Toby Young - a deeply reactionary figure and a pioneer of privatisation in education - has been rightly criticised.⁴⁹

NEC further believes

1. The problem with the Office for Students is deeper than Toby Young.
2. Despite its name, the OFS does not act in the interest of students: the ideas of 'choice' and 'value for money' are not politically neutral. They present an active threat to the quality of education and to working conditions for staff in HEIs.
3. The creation of the OFS signals that any discussion of education as a public good is over. It consolidates and extends existing marketisation.
4. Given this, whether NUS is represented on the board of the OFS misses the point.

NEC resolves

1. To release a statement condemning not only the OFS's appointments and non-appointments but its entire existence.
2. To reaffirm NUS's commitment to fighting for free education and against marketisation.

⁴⁸ <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/englands-ofs-plans-compulsory-tef-and-charge-ps120k-fees>

⁴⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/jan/09/toby-young-resigns-office-for-students>

Motion 203: Support Repeal the Eighth!

NEC believes

1. Article 40.3.3 known as the Eighth Amendment was voted into the Irish Constitution by a referendum in 1983.
2. The amendment in question states *"the state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right"* thereby prohibiting abortion in all cases except where doctors believe the woman's life is at risk.
3. The right to bodily autonomy is a fundamental human right that should be granted to all people - the eighth amendment is in direct violation of this.
4. The current legislation does not reflect contemporary public opinion – 87 per cent of people in Ireland want access to abortion expanded whilst 72 per cent believe it should be decriminalised.⁵⁰
5. An estimated 150,000 people have travelled to other countries to procure an abortion since 1980.⁵¹
6. Any individual who procures an abortion within the country risks a 14-year jail term - including the doctor(s) who perform the procedure or assists it.
7. Everyday an approximated 12 people in Ireland will have an abortion – between 9-10 will travel to the UK whilst 3 will risk a 14-year prison sentence by taking illegal abortion pills⁵²;
8. People have already died in Ireland having been denied life-saving abortion procedures – including Savita Halappanavar.⁵³
9. Thousands of people are unable to travel for abortion services due to family, legal status, financial situation, health or in abusive relationships – and many rely on a range of charities like the Abortion Support Network for assistance.⁵⁴
10. In September 2017, the Irish Government announced a referendum to change the country's laws on abortion.⁵⁵ The government has not yet announced the date of the referendum, but it is expected to be held in May/ June 2018.⁵⁶

NEC resolves

1. For the NUS to release a public statement of solidarity with the Repeal campaign (and for it to be signed by all Vice Presidents and the President).

⁵⁰ <https://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty-internationalred-c-poll-reveals-irish-public-want-expanded-access-abortion-political-priority-incoming-government/>

⁵¹ <https://londonirisharc.com/about/>

⁵² <https://www.repealeight.ie/#>

⁵³ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20321741>

⁵⁴ <https://www.asn.org.uk/>

⁵⁵ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-41400836>

2. For NUS to commit resources to raising awareness of the referendum this year so as to encourage Irish nationals studying in the UK to vote in the referendum (e.g. through a comprehensive media strategy, financial resources, and a sustained campaign on voter registration etc.)
3. For the campaign to be a collaborative effort between the NUS and organisations campaigning to repeal the eight-amendment including but not limited to The London-Irish Abortion Rights Campaign, the Abortion Rights Campaign, The Coalition to Repeal the Eighth Amendment.
4. Where possible, for the NUS to provide a financial assistance in the form of a travel bursary so that Irish students studying in the U.K. are able to travel to Ireland and vote in the referendum.
5. For the NUS to raise funds for a charity (e.g. the Abortion Support Network) that provides financial aid and accommodation to those travelling from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man to access safe and legal abortion.

Motion 204: Support the Women's Strike!

NEC believes

1. On 8th March 1908 migrant women marched through the streets of Manhattan to demand better pay and shorter working hours, and in 1917, Russian women took to the streets in an uprising that would eventually overturn the Tsarist regime.
2. Last year, on 8th March, women in more than 50 countries went on strike from paid and unpaid labour, whilst millions more across the world took part in direct action, in one of the most political International Women's Days in recent history.
 - a. In Australia, dozens of nurseries and children's centres were forced to close after more than 1,000 childcare workers walked off the job at 3:20, the time at which they begin working for free as a result of the gender pay gap, while thousands attended a rally in Melbourne.⁵⁷
 - b. Traffic was at a standstill in Dublin where thousands of protestors gathered to call for a repeal of the 8th amendment, which amounts to a near-total ban on abortion.⁵⁸
 - c. In South America, mass strikes and demonstrations drew attention to high rates of femicide. In Argentina protests began with a "ruidazo" followed by a march in Buenos Aires to protest against the 78% rise in femicide in the past eight years.
 - d. In 60 cities in Brazil, women walked out of work for at least an hour in protest at "structural violence" against women, while women from Movimento Sem Terra, a direct action land reform group, occupied the abandoned farm of a businessman currently in jail because of corruption.
 - e. In Poland – where a women-led 'Black Protest' overturned a blanket ban on abortion last October – protestors gathered outside the Law and Justice headquarters, and in Romania women lay on the ground and read out the names of women killed by their partners.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/mar/08/more-than-1000-childcare-workers-walk-off-job-over-pay-gap>

⁵⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/23/irish-trade-unions-referendum-abortion-rights-repeal-eighth-amendment-ireland-pro-choice>

⁵⁹ See <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/08/international-womens-day-women-close-schools-occupy-farms-and-go-on-strike> for more information on the above

3. This year, again on International Women's Day, there are plans to call on women in the UK to join an international women's strike:
 - a. *"We will walk out of our kitchens, universities, brothels, schools, bedrooms, factories, hospitals and offices. We will strike from all the work we do, whether it is paid or unpaid. If you can strike on 8 March, do. If you need to book the day off work, do it now. Or call in sick on the day. Withdraw all the housework and domestic work you do everyday for free. If you have a male partner, get them to care for the kids or make breakfast."*⁶⁰

NEC further believes

1. This year has seen movements such as the #TimesUp and #MeToo movements, where women and non-binary people have spoken out against widespread sexual harassment and abuse by those in power. The Women's Strike defies the idea that all we need is to tell our stories, over and over again – but rather that now is a time to mobilise for action and realise the power that removing our labour has.
2. The Women's Strike Facebook event page says that #WeStrike:
 - "For every woman who is sick to death of being sexually harassed and bullied at work.*
 - For every woman who is hungry and unable to heat her house.*
 - For every woman suffering because of benefit cuts or poverty wages.*
 - For every woman who is expected to earn less than her male colleagues and then come home and start a second shift of cooking, cleaning and caring.*
 - For every woman who is kept powerless by whore stigma.*
 - For every woman who endures homophobia and transphobia.*
 - For every woman who has worked herself to the bone to keep the national health and education systems functioning and yet has not received a pay rise in years.*
 - For every woman who has suffered violence at the hands of partners, friends, colleagues or bosses and is not believed.*
 - For every woman who faces violence at the hands of the state through immigration raids, mass incarceration and racist policing."*⁶¹

NEC resolves

1. To support students and staff withdrawing their (paid and/or unpaid) labour and participating in the Women's Strike on 8th March.
2. To allocate resources to the NUS Women's Campaign to host an event on the history of International Women's Day, women's strikes, and on the importance of action this year.
3. To organise a national walk out of lectures and classes on 8th March 2018.

⁶⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/events/398094657285688/>

⁶¹ <https://www.facebook.com/events/398094657285688/>

4. To do this by providing resources, such as posters raising awareness of the strike, and resources on how to organise walk-outs and hold picket lines on campuses.
5. To link with other unions in the sector planning to take industrial action in the near future, including UCU.



Motion 205: NUS to Carry Out Research on Student Views on Refugees

NEC believes

1. That an argument consistently used by senior management in universities to refuse funding scholarships and bursaries for Refugees is that students would not be happy with their tuition fees being used to give others a free education.
2. That while we can assume from our policy processes and student connections, we cannot conclusively say that students are pro-refugee and willing to give up a part of their tuition fees to help others.
3. That having the results of this research would hugely help campaigns on both a campus and national level when it comes to helping refugees access further and higher education.
4. That the routes into education for refugees are significantly different when it comes to Further Education and Higher Education.

NEC resolves

1. That the Society and Citizenship Zone should run a piece of research, bringing in students from campuses across the UK, finding out what student views are on both refugees in general and refugees in Higher Education.
2. To formally ask the NUS UK Board to put aside a pot of money to fund this research.
3. That the findings of this research should be broken down both on a campus and national level, meaning that SUs can use their local results to help make arguments in their institutions.
4. To ensure that the research and support is specifically tailored when it comes to Further Education unions, and is not just a bad replica of the resources offered to Higher Education Unions.

Meeting date: 7 June 2018

Motion 101: 70 Years of Injustice: Freedom for Palestine

NEC believes

1. On 14th May 2018, over 60 Palestinian protesters, including women and children, were murdered by the Israeli military, and over two thousand wounded by live ammunition.⁶²
2. Amnesty International, along with many other human rights organisations, member states of the UN, and the UN Secretary General, have expressed their outrage over these atrocities.⁶³
3. Since 30th March 2018 - Land Day - tens of thousands of Palestinians have been participating in the Great Return March, calling for the right of return to their homes and to their land they were expelled from by force 70 years ago. Over a hundred Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli military for participating in the protests.
4. Since 2014, the UK government has approved over £490 million worth of arms exports to Israel, including for weapons of the type used in the militarised repression in Gaza.

⁶² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2018/may/15/gaza-israel-nakba-day-protests-as-palestinians-bury-those-killed-in-embassy-unrest-live-updates>

⁶³ http://www.thenational.scot/news/16225186.Amnesty_and_the_SNP_condemn_Israel_but_Boris_stays_silent/

5. This year marks 70 years since the Nakba - the Catastrophe - in which over 750,000 Palestinians were expelled or forced to flee from their homes and their land.

NEC further believes

1. The UK must recognise its complicity in denying the Palestinian people their inalienable and basic rights, particularly by continuing to approve arms sales to Israel, in defiance of the UK's own export guidelines.

NEC resolves

1. To stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for dignity, equality, and the right to return to their homes, as enshrined in international law.
2. To continue to support the Palestinian-led call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) of Israel, along with civil society, human rights organisation, and trade unions, until it complies with basic tenets of international law, as NUS has done for many years.
3. To ensure that any BDS activity does not target Israeli citizens, particularly Israeli students studying at UK FE and HE institutions.
4. To ensure that any BDS activity does not target or impact Jewish students' ability to study on their campus, particularly regarding provision of Kosher food, provision of religious items and by ensuring a zero-tolerance approach to antisemitism/ hostile environments where Jewish students feel uncomfortable during campus BDS debates.

Motion 102: Support for Student Carers

NEC believes

1. The NUS "Learning with Care" research (2013) said that student carers had experienced varying degrees of support from their institutions, but in all cases, there was a lack of coordinated, systematic support.
2. Two thirds of student carers (67%) regularly worry about not having enough money to meet their basic living expenses.
3. That full-time students are not eligible for Carers Allowance.

NEC further believes

1. That student carers are under-represented in the student movement as a whole.
2. That international student carers should also be considered.
3. That NUS should be doing more for student carers.

NEC resolves

1. To mandate the Vice President Welfare to lobby the UK Government on Carers Allowance eligibility to be extended to students.



2. To mandate NUS to consult student carers on what support from their institutions and Unions should look like, to collect data and best practice from Students' Unions on how they and their institutions support student carers currently, and share this in a guide to the membership.

Motion 103: Justice for Grenfell

NEC believes

1. 7 months on from the horrific Grenfell Tower Fire, the Government is yet to approve any requests from local councils for fire safety improvements. 36 have so far requested help, including four with aluminium cladding like that on Grenfell Tower.
2. This January, Rotterdam's University of Applied Sciences closed one of its buildings as the cladding posed a high risk of fire. It is unclear how many buildings in Britain require such urgent action.
3. On 20 September 2017, the Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee was informed by a representative of Glasgow City Council that the city had a number of buildings which used flammable cladding similar to that at Grenfell Tower. The council later confirmed 57 privately owned buildings had some element of aluminium cladding similar to that of Grenfell Tower.
4. The government have no mandatory tests of cladding on private accommodation, which includes high rise student accommodation. A number of public buildings, including schools and hospitals have flammable cladding. Of the 89 private sector buildings tested in September with cladding, 85 failed the test - only 4 passed.
5. Of 173 social housing buildings with similar cladding to Grenfell Tower, 165 buildings failed the fire safety test, and only 8 passed.
6. BBC Breakfast found that only 2% of the council and social housing tower blocks that it investigated had full sprinkler systems. These have prevented multiple deaths in high rise tower blocks around the world.
7. The Conservative government did not heed warnings of previous fatal fires in high rise buildings to fit sprinkler systems which save lives in high rise buildings. The cost of this for Grenfell Tower would have been £200,000. The local council has reserves of £274 million.

NEC further believes

1. Grenfell Tower Fire was a horrific catastrophe which has exposed how Tory cuts impact the poorest communities in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea, one of the richest boroughs in London. The residents who have been affected by this fire are overwhelmingly working-class people, migrants and refugees from African, Arab, Asian and Caribbean communities.
2. The survivors of the Grenfell Tower catastrophe include students and the government must provide full support in terms of rehousing, mental health provision, an immigration amnesty for undocumented people who lived in the tower, and access to the charitable funds that have yet to reach survivors.



NEC resolves

1. To call for retrofitting of sprinklers and a flammable cladding mandatory safety test by the Government on all high-rise buildings, in both private and public sectors, to prevent another Grenfell Tower catastrophe, including a detailed audit of student accommodation.
2. To condemn the use of cheap flammable cladding which has been banned in the building industry internationally, the austerity-led cuts to the fire service, including the closure of fire stations and loss of fire fighters in London, the cuts to fire safety provisions by the Conservative government over the last 7 years, and the labelling of health and safety legislation as a 'red tape monster' by the government.

Motion 104: Childcare on Campus

NEC believes

1. That NUS have carried out research in the past on the experiences of student parents in 'Meet the Parents' (2009) and in NUS Scotland's 'The Bairn Necessities' (2015)

NEC further believes

1. That while both of these pieces of research are thorough and important, more needs to be done to support student parents on campus and improve childcare provision specifically across the UK.

NEC resolves

1. To mandate NUS to carry out research on what provision is currently available across the UK, in both HE and FE
2. To mandate the Vice President Welfare to work with the Student Parents and Carers section of NUS to launch a campaign around improving provision across all post compulsory learning.
3. That NUS will collect best practice from Students' Unions on work they're doing to make their campuses child-friendly, and share this with the wider movement.

Motion 105: Fighting Prison Injustice

NEC believes

1. The government intends to build several new megaprisons across England and Wales. The cost of this stands at least £1.2 billion⁶⁴
2. The UK has the highest per capita prison population in Western Europe⁶⁵

⁶⁴ researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN05646/SN05646.pdf

⁶⁵ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/uk/06/prisons/html/nn1page1.stm>

3. Prisons are a costly and ineffective method of resolving conflicts in the community. A prison place costs in excess of £40m per year⁶⁶, with high rates of reoffending⁶⁷.
4. Restorative justice is an alternative approach to the prison system which emphasises mediation, community support mechanisms, and challenging systemic oppression. It has better rates of victim satisfaction and offender accountability compared with punitive justice⁶⁸
5. The UK Prison System disproportionately incarcerates working class⁶⁹, black⁷⁰, and disabled people⁷¹. Whilst official figures are not kept on LGBT+ and Trans demographics behind bars, anecdotal evidence points to these communities being disproportionately represented in prison too.
6. The NUS Trans Campaign has been working on a syllabus which provides workshop plans and reading material for people who want to learn more about prison abolition and restorative justice.

NEC further believes

1. Any expansion of the prison estate is likely to have the effect of increasing state violence and the incarceration of marginalised people.
2. £40k per prisoner per year, in the vast majority of cases, would be better spent on prevention and social support than on simply housing them behind bars.
3. Restorative justice is well-supported in public policy and is a more ethical and effective form of justice, but not many people know about it meaning it has little public support. It is often excluded from law, criminology, and related courses.

NEC resolves

1. For the NUS to affirm a stance supporting a moratorium on the construction of new prisons in the United Kingdom.
2. To mandate the President to write to the Ministry of Justice expressing opposition to current and future prison expansion projects.
3. To mandate the VP Soc Cit to provide support for local groups campaigning against prison justice and for restorative justice.
4. To mandate the VPUD to explore the possibilities of setting up students' unions within prisons where educational facilities are provided.
5. To mandate the President, VPHE, and VPFE to campaign for law, criminology, social work, and other related courses to include abolitionist perspectives within their course content.
6. To mandate the President and Vice Presidents to encourage constituent members to disseminate and utilise the prison abolition syllabus.

⁶⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2008/jul/28/justice.prisonsandprobation>

⁶⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics>

⁶⁸ <https://restorativejustice.org.uk/resources/moj-evaluation-restorative-justice>

⁶⁹ <http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Prisonthefacts.pdf>

⁷⁰ researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN04334/SN04334.pdf

⁷¹ <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/criminal-justice-system.pdf>

Motion 106: If we can't travel, we can't learn....

NEC believes

1. Transport costs mean students are currently, and have consistently been, excluded from or impoverished by their education.
2. During the Area Review Process, NUS held roundtables with student representatives from 124 FE institutions across England. It was found that in every area transport was an issue affecting student's ability to access education.
3. NUS carried out research with FE students in 2015 and found that 51% of students said they cannot always afford their travel costs.⁷²
4. Apprentices struggle to afford their transport costs. Across the UK apprentices are paying an average of £24 per week in travel costs.⁷³ This means that an apprentice on the apprentice national minimum wage of £3.50 lose an entire day's pay each week in paying for their commute.
5. In Wales, around six in 10 (62 per cent) further education students have costs associated with travel⁷⁴. This figure rises to 75% in Northern Ireland.
6. The cost of travel, both in cash and time, is putting strain on students' abilities to balance their commitments between work, study and family life. In Wales, 37% of students reported this⁷⁵, in Northern Ireland it was 49%⁷⁶
7. In Scotland, an apprentice on the apprentice minimum wage working 35 hours a week would earn £122.50 a week. While discounts are available to 16-18-year olds who hold a Young Scot card, apprentices over 18 face weekly ticket costs of up to £54.409 - almost half of their weekly wage.
8. The discount offered by the 16-25 railcard and new "millennial railcard" announced in 2017 is not valid on a large amount of peak-time travel, when students are most likely to be travelling to college.
9. Student support for travel is inconsistent across local authorities and does not cover costs.
10. The removal of Education Maintenance Allowance and the Adult Learning Grant back in 2010 for students in England has made financial support a key issue for Further Education students when it comes to accessing their education.
11. That whilst the Government replaced EMA with a bursary, the overall budget of this fund and its discretionary nature means that it is inadequate at meeting the needs of FE students.
12. FE Students in rural areas pay more for often less satisfactory services.
13. The NSoA have been working on a national campaign on the issue of transport.

⁷² https://nusdigital.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/document/documents/20127/a9921e89ec43a5c30c93230062098267/CTC_transport_briefing_-_FINAL.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJKEA56ZWKFU6MHNQ&Expires=1515431626&Signature=NjQAdwdXZGPZVK4f93p5w3vzYLY%3D

⁷³ https://www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/12238/Forget%20Me%20Not_%20Apprentice%20Report.pdf

⁷⁴ https://www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/12238/NUS_poundinyourpocketWales_report-English.pdf

⁷⁵ https://www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/12238/NUS_poundinyourpocketWales_report-English.pdf

⁷⁶ <https://www.nus.org.uk/Global/NUS-USI-Pound-in-Your-Pocket-summary-report.pdf>

14. Some apprentices are blocked from accessing their apprenticeship if they live in rural areas or areas with a lack of public transport. This creates a further barrier in terms of adverse pay conditions and discourages people from applying to apprenticeships or types of apprenticeships.⁷⁷
15. All apprentices should have a reasonable amount of disposable income for development.

NEC further believes

1. Students also suffer from poor, unreliable services on public transport such as buses, trains and trams.
2. One third of FE students spend between one and two hours getting to college.
3. Students in rural areas have limited services that are at risk of being cut or removed completely, limiting students' access to college and activities outside the classroom. In cities, transport options are more numerous but the cost can be so prohibitive as to leave students' transport options very limited.
4. Area reviews in England, college regionalisation in Scotland and mergers creating large regional colleges in Wales and NI are intended to create greater specialisation of subjects being taught on certain campuses.⁷⁸
5. Curriculum changes like this will lead to students having to travel further to access the course they want to study or choose a course or institution they may not want to study because it is nearer to their home
6. Many students' unions negotiate with local bus companies to provide a discounted rate for students, but as this happens at a local level it varies from institution to institution meaning not all students are getting a fair deal.
7. Government should guarantee free bus travel for FE students and apprentices, just as older people do, to ensure equal access to opportunity, preventing them from falling behind due to financial barriers.

NEC resolves

1. To invest in a community led campaign across the country, to bring together transport companies, local councils and students to fix cheaper, more affordable, more reliable travel for students.
2. To lobby locally and nationally for discounted and accessible travel for college students and apprentices across the UK.
3. To negotiate with national public transport provider to ensure NUS extra as the recognised discount card for travel.
4. To lobby private national rail companies to lift the peak time restriction on young person's rail discounts.
5. To produce guidance for local unions to contact and lobby local franchised transport providers to introduce cheaper travel for students.

⁷⁷ https://www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/12238/Forget%20Me%20Not_%20Apprentice%20Report.pdf

⁷⁸ <https://www.scotrail.co.uk/tickets/commuter>

6. To create a briefing to assist and coordinate with unions lobbying for better student transport and student discounts on travel in their local area through the new laws
7. To lobby National Rail regarding restrictions on the 16-25 railcard and publicise availability to full time students over 26
8. For NUS to increase AOC and UUK's awareness of the issues commuting students face and the effect they have on the student experience.
9. To lobby for a national student concession on all public transport
10. To lobby Transport for London regarding the restrictions on Oyster payments for users of the Student Oyster Card
11. NUS FE Zone and NSoA to work in conjunction on a national and regional campaign on apprentice travel.
12. The NUS VPFE to be made accountable for making sure the apprentice stream is not forgotten about.
13. For NUS VP Further Education and VP Society and Citizenship to work with the NSoA to obtain quantitative data around numbers of affected apprentices in rural and city areas.
14. When this data is obtained, for the transport working group of NSoA to come up with proposals to better the lives of apprentices

Motion 107: NUS for the NHS - DO NOT PRIVATISE OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

NEC believes

1. Decent healthcare is a right, not a privilege, that must be afforded to everybody who needs it.
2. NHS spending on care provided by private companies is at a record high of £3.1 billion, with non-NHS firms winning nearly 70% of all contracts in England in 2016-17.
3. Richard Branson's Virgin Care won a record £1 billion worth of contracts in the last year, making it the dominant private provider in the NHS market. The company pays no tax in the UK, and its parent company is registered in the British Virgin Islands, which is a tax haven.
4. A landmark study published last year showed that outsourcing of hospital support services had serious health risks. By seeking to save money (by employing fewer staff, with worse working conditions), private firms lowered the cleanliness and hygiene levels, putting patients at greater risks of very serious illness, such as the MRSA bug.
5. Even senior Tory MPs are urging the government to rethink of the introduction of Accountable Care Organisations - a way for to open up the NHS to privatisation - and listen to concerns of the public.

NEC further believes

1. Private companies are interested in profit before patients. They maximise profits by cutting corners and underinvesting, by cutting jobs and employing more staff on precarious contracts.



2. Further, private firms are not accountable to the public: the contracts that are agreed have little transparency, and companies are not subject to Freedom of Information requests because of 'commercial confidentiality'.
3. The collapse of private companies providing public services (e.g. Carillion) is a clear indication of the insecurity and risk that privatisation brings.
4. Students are particularly vulnerable in the light of mass NHS cuts and privatisation.

NEC resolves

1. To make campaigning against the government to stop the privatisation of the NHS a priority for the Welfare Zone in 2018/19.
2. For the Welfare Zone to work with external local and national groups, such as Save Our NHS and the People's Assembly Against Austerity in opposing NHS Cuts and Privatisation.
3. For the Welfare Zone to map local and national groups campaigning to save the NHS so that SUs and students can easily find groups to form coalitions with.
4. For the Welfare Zone to campaign against Sustainability and Transformation Plans.
5. For the Welfare Zone to conduct research into the ability of students to access NHS services, taking into account waiting times and the transitory nature of students as further barriers to access.

Motion 108: Campaigning for better sexual health provision on campus

NEC believes

1. All students, regardless of age, should have access to free, confidential sexual health services suitable to their needs and within a practical distance to travel to.
2. All sexual health services and information should be pro-choice and we should fight for the right for students to live and study on our campuses without being lobbied by anti-choice groups.
3. Access to sexual health services is especially difficult for students aged 16-18 in FE.
4. FE students aged 16-18 are a valuable voice in developing an inclusive SRE curriculum for schools.
5. The effect of privatisation and Tory cuts have meant that multiple sexual health centres have closed over the past year. In London alone six have closed in the past year.
6. The Royal College of Nursing has criticised the new the new system for sexual health as, an "STI ticking time bomb".

NEC resolves

1. To support and lobby local councils to adopt similar legislation to Ealing Council on combatting the harassment that people going to sexual health clinics face from prolife protestors, by creating buffer zones.
2. NUS must lobby for sexual health services to be free for students and that the cuts to services such as sexual health clinics and rape crisis centres, to be reversed.



3. NUS to work with FE institutions to ensure that 16-18-year olds are key voices in shaping SRE
4. Through the NUS purchasing consortium, STI testing kits and free contraception should be provided to Students' Unions.

Motion 109: Tackling Sexual Harassment

NEC believes

1. 1 in 3 women students have experienced sexual assault or unwanted advances at University half of women students and a third of men knew of a friend or relative who has experienced intrusive sexual behaviour.
2. Only 21% of surveyed universities had a designated point of contact who had significant training on how to deal with students who have experienced sexual harassment and assault
3. More than 1/3 of women students sometimes feel unsafe visiting university or college buildings in the evening due to their concerns of harassment and intimidation.
4. The majority of student sexual harassment and assault are other students known to the victims
5. Being subject to unwanted sexual contact significantly impacts educational attainment, increases stress levels and increases risk of dropping out of university
6. Access to education is partly determined by the right to study free of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
7. Self-defining women, students and staff face endemic sexual harassment and abuse in institutions of post-16 education.
8. Enforcement behind recommendations made within UUK Task Force has not been strong enough in respect to the enormity of the issue.
9. There have been numerous incidents of sexual harassment, rape and assault at NUS events.
10. The NUS complaints procedure and disciplinary procedure need urgent reviewing.
11. The NUS need to stand in solidarity with survivors/victims of sexual violence.


NEC further believes

1. Support SUs in lobbying their institutions to create accessible reporting mechanisms that provide students with sufficient information and adequate pastoral care.
2. A report in The Guardian unmasked systematic ways in which institutions attempt to actively cover up or ignore cases of sexual harassment and abuse, including nondisclosure agreements.
3. 37% of women and 12% of men have experienced unwelcome and inappropriate sexual touching and groping, which constitutes sexual assault under UK law.
4. UUK's taskforce report findings and recommendations need to be implemented in every University.
5. That there needs to be bespoke work on this carried out in FE
6. The scale of sexual harassment and assault experienced within institutions is completely unacceptable and must be stopped



7. The Women Students Campaign has many motions around sexual harassment and assault, it is time National Conference passed a motion to help tackle student to student sexual harassment and assault within institutions.
8. Due to the stigma and victim blaming that disclosures are met with; the recorded statistics underrepresent just how pertinent this issue is.
9. Educational environments should be safe for students to thrive, free from fear of sexual harassment or assault
10. Institutions should be tackling this epidemic head on, with centralized reporting systems and trained pastoral support for survivors/victims.
11. The standard of proof required for cases of sexual violence focus on a "balance of probability" instead of requiring allegations to be proven "beyond reasonable doubt".
12. Demanding a criminal standard of proof actively discourages survivors and victims of sexual harassment, rape and assault from engaging with disciplinary (complaint) procedures.
13. NUS are not a criminal court and should not behave as such. Indeed, penalties inflicted on the alleged perpetrator have no effect on their criminal record or their standing in the eyes of the law.

NEC resolves

1. To call on HEFCE/OfS to require all HEIs to report on progress against the UUK guidelines
 2. Produce campaign materials, toolkits and appropriate training for student unions to run sexual violence awareness workshops and support students who face harassment and abuse.
 3. To ensure that bystander intervention training is on offer to help people feel enabled to speak up if they see harassment or hatred towards students
 4. To lobby UUK to respond to sector-wide staff-student harassment.
 5. To call on Government and AoC to launch an FE sector specific taskforce on sexual assault and harassment.
 6. To call on all FEIs and HEIs to adopt zero-tolerance stance for sexual harassment, violence, or hate crimes, all of which will become subject to a disciplinary matter
 7. To accept the recommendations by 1752 and the NUS Women's Campaign research due to be published soon
 8. To work with SUs to provide campaign resources, share best practice, national lobbying and provide training in preventing sexual harassment and assault, and bystander intervention.
 9. For NUS to deliver first respondent training to all NUS officers, staff and NEC members.
 10. For NUS to convene a working group to review safeguarding policies on sexual harassment and sexual violence and draft new policies accordingly.
 11. To ensure that the working group has reserved places for Independent Sexual Violence Agencies (ISVAs), the NUS Women's Officer and the NUS Women's NEC 2nd Place.
 12. To ensure that the standard of proof required in disciplinary cases focuses on a "balance of probability".
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13. To ensure that NUS drafts new guidelines on how to support survivors/victims of sexual violence.
14. To ensure that NUS drafts guidance for students' unions on how to deal with incidents of sexual violence involving union staff (including elected officers).

Motion 110: Stop Doing Over Our Nursing Students

NEC believes

1. Following the scrapping of Bursaries, English applications to British Nursing and Midwifery courses fell 23%.
2. Placements reduce access to union and university support.
3. Failure and dropout rates are high. Students report inadequate academic and wellbeing support.
4. The last NUS Charter for Nursing and Midwifery students was published 22 years ago.
5. Neither the relevant QAA nor NMC's education standards mention student support, representation or social activity.
6. Nursing and Midwifery Students contribute to NHS services without employment rights or financial compensation.
7. The NUS must act to support student Nurses and Midwives.
8. There are huge problems with academic failure and lack of support for nursing students, across all institutions
9. Many nurses and midwives 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
10. Nursing 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
11. Students on nursing courses are often mature, with dependants and many institutions fail support those with these and other additional needs
12. Nursing failure and dropout rates are at epidemic levels, institutions average a 20% drop out rate but some report up to 50%
13. Whilst on placement there is the added pressure to meet the demands submitting and preparing for assessments leads to academic failure, misconduct and stress
14. Nursing students can be course terminated through the means of 'fitness to practice'
15. The last NUS Charter for Nursing and Midwifery students was published 22 years ago
16. There are huge problems with academic failure and lack of support for nursing students, across all institutions
17. NSS scores consistently track lower for Nursing and Midwifery courses against the average
18. Many nurses and midwives 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 or wider University community
19. Nursing 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



20. Students on nursing courses are often mature, with dependents and many institutions fail support those with these and other additional needs

21. Nursing failure and dropout rates are at epidemic levels

NEC further believes

1. 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
2. To address Nursing and Midwifery students specifically in future reviews of NUS governance.
3. To improve campus integration, including in student unions' sports clubs, societies and other services.
4. Nursing bursaries have been scrapped
5. Year after year NUS passes motions on Nursing and Midwifery that never seem to go anywhere
6. The last NUS Charter for Nursing and Midwifery students was published 22 years ago
7. 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

NEC resolves

1. To work with all relevant trade unions to campaign for increased financial support for these students, including an upfront allowance for placement expenses.
2. Lobby Universities to adapt placement allocation to the needs of student carers, family cohesion and professional development.
3. Lobby for future versions of the NMC code to uphold freedom of expression and the right to personal life; removing restrictions on media co-operation and relaxing professional behaviour regulations, allowing student nurses to express themselves freely online (excluding hate speech/misconduct).
4. Create a national charter of rights for Student Nurses and Midwives
5. To hold a national summit on representation of Nursing and Midwifery students in conjunction with Unison, the RCN and the RCM
6. To lobby the NMC and other bodies to improve the standard of student representation, student social facilities and student wellbeing delivered by HEIs as a key part of nursing education standards
7. Campaign for all UK Nursing and Midwifery curriculums to explore the health needs of minority groups.
8. Lobby Universities to improve their absence and 'fitness to practice' policies so that disabled students in these fields do not suffer discrimination.
9. Respond to proposals for NHS staff to enforce 'health-tourism' regulations.
10. Protect placements and future jobs for current nursing students
11. To carry out research into the student experience of students on Nursing and Midwifery courses
12. To research the viability of the remuneration of student nurses for the hours undertaken on placement, which constitutes approximately 50% of the contact hours during their degree.
13. To campaign to expose the failure of student funding policy for nursing and reverse the changes



14. To look at integration of nursing across many Unions and their campuses to increase nursing representation
15. That any review of NUS' governance should address nursing and midwifery students as a specific priority area
16. To campaign to expose the failure of student funding policy for nursing and reverse the changes
17. To look at integration of nursing across many Unions and their campuses to increase nursing representation
18. To work with trade unions to protect placements and future jobs for current nursing students
19. To hold a national summit on representation of Nursing and Midwifery students in conjunction with Unison, the RCN and the RCM 128
20. To lobby the NMC and other bodies to improve the standard of student representation, student social facilities and student wellbeing delivered by HEIs as a key part of nursing education standards
21. To carry out research into the student experience of students on Nursing and Midwifery courses
To create a new national charter of rights for Student Nursing and Midwifery education.

Motion 111: Online Hate Crime

NEC believes

1. There has been surge in reports of hate crime both in the real world and online following the EU referendum in June 2016, while police figures show another spike around the terrorist attacks in the UK in 2017⁷⁹.
2. Online hate-crime accounts for 2% of all recorded hate crime in the UK, however rates of reported online hate crime are estimated to be substantially lower than actual occurrences
3. Hate crime via social media is just as serious, and has consequences just as damaging, as hate crime perpetrated in real life
4. All students deserve to have access to education, free from harassment, intimidation or violence; regardless of background.
5. Online hate speech threatens to disrupt good campus relations and can create an environment, both publicly and virtually, in which hate crime flourishes.
6. In October 2017, the Government released a National Hate Crime Reporting Hub to channel all reports of online hate crime and reduce burden on frontline officers⁸⁰. and was given £200,000 worth of funding. This amount averages out to £3 per incident recorded, and has been widely condemned as insufficient⁸¹

⁷⁹ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/online-hate-crime-amber-rudd-home-office-national-police-hub-facebook-twitter-trolls-a7988411.html>

⁸⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-national-online-hate-crime-hub>

⁸¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/oct/14/government-criticised-for-low-funding-level-to-tackle-online-hate>

NEC further believes


1. Fighting hate crime is rightly at the centre of NUS' political actions and it is time to extend that fight online.
2. The rise in online hate crime, including racism, islamophobia, antisemitism, homophobia, transphobia and misogyny must be fought at all costs.
3. Freedom to express views can sometimes be tempered by the need to secure freedom from harm for students and communities, which is why NUS proudly operates a No Platform for fascists policy

NEC resolves

1. To publicly reaffirm NUS' zero tolerance approach to Islamophobia, antisemitism and all forms of racism and discrimination in real life and online
2. To extend the principles of the NUS No Platform policy into online spaces and issue guidance to SUs on how to practically implement the policy online
3. NUS will lobby the Office for Students and others to provide clearer guidance to universities on balancing the freedom to speak with freedom from harm.
4. To support SUs to 'win the argument' with their institutions and to work collaboratively to protect both freedom of speech and online student safety
5. NUS will provide support for students' unions to create appropriate policies to address online hate crime
6. NUS will share anonymous data, only with the informed consent of victims, with the relevant SU where they have received reports of hate crime through NUS' hate crime reporting centre.
7. NUS will compile and distribute a set of resources for SUs, alongside the guidance on how to set up a hate crime reporting centre in an SU
8. NUS to use Hate Crime Awareness Week to call for greater funding for the National Hate Crime Reporting Hub from the Home Secretary and support SUs to engage with their Police and Crime Commissioners
9. NUS will work with the relevant third sector organisations tackling online hate crime and harassment, such as Community Security Trust and others.

Motion 112: No Hate Here

NEC believes

1. Swastikas, the symbol used by the Nazi regime have been trivialized and used around campuses as a way to threaten groups of students, or even as a joke
 2. The Community Security Trust have recorded 13 separate incidents at different Universities of Swastika graffiti in 2017.
 3. Swastikas belittle the experiences of those who have emotional connections to the Holocaust and Nazi persecution.
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4. NUS have done increasingly well in educating the British student community on the atrocities of the Holocaust

5. In November 2017, a student hung the red Nazi flag/banner in the atrium of Central Saint Martins, UAL⁸²

NEC further believes

1. Students in 2017 must be aware of the gravity of using such symbolism, especially if done casually
2. Jewish students deserve to feel safe in their homes and at their place of study
3. Swastikas are no longer a tool of the far right, and can now be found to be used all over the political spectrum

NEC resolves

1. NUS must continue work with the Union of Jewish Students following Our Living Memory to ensure that education on Swastikas and the Holocaust continues
2. NUS must encourage its member Unions to take a no tolerance policy on Swastikas
3. NUS must ensure that campus security know what to do when faced with such a situation.

⁸² <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/central-saint-martins-university-of-the-arts-london-1.448097>

Live Policy from NEC meetings 2018/19

Meeting date: 17th September 2018

Stop and Scrap Universal Credit

NEC believes

1. Full time disabled students in both FE and HE cannot claim Universal Credit, despite the fact they could claim some of the benefits that have been replaced by Universal Credit, such as Employment Support Allowance and Housing Benefit⁸³.
2. For students who can claim Universal Credit, there are many documented issues. These include, but are not limited to: claimants going into rent arrears, claimants being in debt to the Department of Work and Pensions due to the delay on first payment, claimants having to use foodbanks and claimants in mental distress due to all the other issues with it⁸⁴.
3. Many groups have come out against Universal Credit and have called for it to be "stopped and scrapped" including: Disabled People Against the Cuts⁸⁵, Mental Health Resistance Network, and the People's Assembly Against Austerity⁸⁶ and Unite the Union.
4. It is sexist, with payments being made to one person in the household, which prevents survivors of domestic abuse (and children) from leaving potentially abusive relationships⁸⁷.
5. BME households are also more likely to end up in poverty as a result of already structural inequality and further issues caused by Universal Credit⁸⁸.

NEC further believes

1. For many disabled students, the money which they get through disability and welfare benefits is essential to help with the additional costs of living and studying
2. Disabled people, including students, should have access to disability and welfare benefits in a way which is not invasive and punitive such as the current welfare system is.
3. A broad coalition of groups, student and non-student, disabled and non-disabled, is essential to fighting Universal Credit and its destructive consequences.
4. Although Universal Credit claims to simplify the benefits application process, it is based on a model of welfare which aims to stop "welfare dependency" which makes it irredeemable⁹.

⁸³ <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/students-and-universal-credit-briefing>

⁸⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/oct/02/universal-credit-why-problem-can-benefits-system-be-fixed>

⁸⁵ <https://dpac.uk.net/2018/01/dpac-position-statement-and-motion-for-union-branches-on-universal-credit/>

⁸⁶ <http://syypeoplesassembly.org/event/universal-credit-day-of-action/>

⁸⁷ ⁶ <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/brexit/2017/10/woman-no-resources-woman-who-can-t-leave-why-universal-credit-feminist-issue>

⁸⁸ <http://www.24housing.co.uk/news/bme-communities-disproportionately-impacted-by-universal-credit/>

5. All students with additional costs should be able to access welfare benefits in order to alleviate the extra costs that they experience.
6. There should not be financial barriers in people being able to access education at any level.

NEC resolves

1. To work with the Disabled Students' Campaign, Women's Campaign and the Parents and Carers' Campaign for a stop and scrap of Universal Credit
2. To work with other groups, such as DPOs, Trade Unions and other campaign groups to provide skills and training to students and Student Unions in campaigning to "stop and scrap" Universal Credit.
3. To continue to lobby MPs to vote to stop and scrap Universal Credit.
4. To maintain and extend to the entirety of NUS the Disabled Students' Campaign's position on the dehumanising nature of Work Capability Assessments and the DSC position on their abolition
5. For our demands around Universal Credit and other benefits to be intersectional, taking into account the multiple oppressions a claimant may experience

What a way to make a living; support the fight for better FE & HE pay.

NEC believes

11. Since 2010, workers in higher education have faced an effective pay cut of 21%⁸⁹
12. The latest offer from UCEA included only a 2% increase in pay and no meaningful proposals on casualisation or the gender pay gap despite demands from UCU.⁹⁰
13. The Association of Colleges has failed to offer a concrete pay offer.
14. UCU suggests that it is highly likely that there may be strikes in both further and higher education.⁹¹
15. Disabled workers have the right to work and the right to an open, inclusive and accessible work environment as recognised by Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
16. Disabled workers in educational institutions often have difficulty in being able to guarantee their right to reasonable accommodations, and that their reasonable adjustments will be put in place to a satisfactory level.
17. UCU and Unison has previously run campaigns on getting disabled staff members to disclose impairments and long-term health conditions in order so that reasonable adjustments can be put in place¹.

⁸⁹ <https://www.ucu.org.uk/he2018>

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid; <https://www.ucu.org.uk/fepayengland>

18. UCU Disabled Members have called for a day of action on the 21st of November around the rights of disabled staff members in HE and FE, calling for those institutions to change the way they treat disabled staff members so that equality in the workplace can be achieved.

NEC further believes

1. That these offers are insulting and forms part of a wider deterioration of working conditions and pay within higher education and within the public sector more generally.
2. That, as a union of students, we have a duty and urgent responsibility to support workers' struggles in our own academic communities, especially those which affect our members.
3. That we cannot fight cuts and marketisation in education by acting as consumers, or by leveraging our power as 'consumers', but only through political struggle and solidarity.
4. The social model of disability is a way of looking at what disability is - the barriers that disabled people face occur due to the organisation of society and institutions and the disablement that they cause people with impairments to experience, rather than models of disability which place the problem on the person with impairments and their body/mind.
5. In UK law, the Equality Act 2010 guarantees under the right of all disabled people to reasonable adjustments so that they can carry out their work on an equal basis to their non-disabled peers.
6. Student-staff solidarity is essential to "liberating" our education institutions and resisting the ongoing marketisation of education in both HE and FE.
7. Representation within education is fundamental to producing an inclusive education environment for disabled students.

NEC resolves

1. To release a statement supporting workers' pay struggles across the education sector and condemn the lack of action on precarity and gender inequality, and laying out our support for members of our sister union should industrial action take place.
2. To produce information and training on how to support the strikes should they go ahead.
3. That any statements, resources, and training produced highlight the political basis of our support for workers' rights and our movement's history of solidarity, rather than using the language of consumerism and consumer rights.
4. To show solidarity with the UCU Disabled Members day of action on the 21st November
5. To contact member unions in both HE and FE to encourage them to organise and support actions with local UCU branches and disabled staff members.
6. To recognise the social model of disability position and to commit to the rights and adequate support for disability inclusion and reasonable adjustments, as laid out under Article 29 of the UNCRPD and the Equality Act 2010 – affirming our belief that society and its institutions need to fund and support the



adjustments of the accommodate disabled people and their needs, rather than expecting disabled people to change.

SLC Stop Spying on students

NEC believes

1. Student Loans Company have been found to have been spying on estranged students, social media accounts were monitored to try to find out if there had been any contact with parents.⁹²
2. Student Loans company 'investigated' 150 estranged students, 81 of the 150 had funding withdrawn.
3. The process for a student confirming estrangement is already a difficult and intrusive process, a letter must be secured from teacher, social worker, police officer or support worker detailing the reasons for estrangement.
4. "Estrangement" is currently defined by student finance as '12 months without verbal or written contact with either parent'

NEC further believes

1. Students who are estranged from their family are often vulnerable young adults and in financial difficulty and withdrawing /suspending student finance is causing students to leave higher education. Students who have had funding withdrawn have suffered enormous stress and hardship.
2. Estranged students have been treated by SLC like they are lying. Estranged students lost funding despite no finding of guilt of fraud.
3. The current definition of an estrangement by student finance means even students with the most distant contact with their parents, it is expected that their parents will provide financial support. For many students this is not the case and removing parents from social media can put students into potential danger and problems. Even students who try to maintain sporadic contact to keep in touch with siblings are denied support by the SLC.
4. As a union we have a duty and urgent responsibility to support estranged students especially students effected by SLC 'investigations' and those who have had funding suspended from student finance.

NEC resolves

1. To release a statement in solidarity with estranged students, calling for an apology and reform from SLC in the treatment of estranged students.

⁹² <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/aug/02/student-loans-company-spied-on-vulnerable-students-social-media>

2. To work with Stand Alone and join them in calling for an urgent review of the 'investigation' carried out by SLC, to call on SLC to reinstate funding to students who have been cut off without any proof of fraud.

Outsourced workers at the central University of London

NEC believes

1. that outsourced workers at the central University of London⁹³ have been campaigning since September 2017 to end outsourcing and be made direct employees of the university. This campaign has the support of the vast majority of the outsourced workers at the University of London demonstrated by the fact that in April 2018 they held the largest outsourced workers' strike in the history of UK higher education.
2. that outsourced workers, the majority of whom are migrant workers or Black, suffer from far worse terms and conditions than the majority white British colleagues that are directly employed by the university. They are also far more likely to suffer from bullying, discrimination and unlawful deduction of wages.
3. that almost a year after the University of London began its facilities management review (November 2017) outsourced workers are still in limbo, waiting to be given a clear timetable under which they will be made direct employees. In this period they continue to suffer under a regime of structural discrimination, where they are vulnerable to unfair and ill treatment.
4. that the university has ignored all calls by the workers to go into substantive negotiations with them and the union that represents the vast majority of the outsourced workers, the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain. Consequently, the workers have been excluded from the University of London's facilities management review, a review that would have a significant impact on the work they do and on their terms and conditions.
5. Rather than engage with the workers, the university has opted for strong arm tactics to try and break their campaign, employing dozens of strike breakers and extra security, at a significant cost.

NEC resolves

1. To stand with IWGB Members in their fight
2. To support the boycott of University of London central administration (including Senate House Senate House, Stewart House, the Warburg, the Institute of Historical Research and the Institute of Advanced

⁹³ comprising the central academic bodies & administrative functions based at Senate and Stewart House, the Warburg Institute, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and the University of London Halls of Residence BUT EXCLUDING the colleges of the federal University.

Legal Studies) until the outsourced workers' demands are met and they are brought in-house. The boycott will require members to not organise or attend events at these buildings.

3. Inform members of the boycott and the reasons behind the boycott of University of London central administration (including Senate House, Stewart House, the Warburg, the Institute of Historical Research and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies).
4. Support the motion to this effect being brought to NUS conference.

Meeting date: 12th December 2018

Transparency, Accountability, and Visibility for NEC

NEC believes

- 19.NUS is a democratic organization that should hold transparency, accountability and engagement at its core.
- 20.NUS consistently struggles with engagement of students and student leaders, particularly within its interim democratic spaces, such as NEC meetings and activities.
- 21.Students being able to watch and follow NEC meetings is an essential part of engaging within NUS and holding their relevant officers to account.

NEC further believes

8. That previously NEC meetings were live-streamed and recorded, which allowed students to follow and understand what NUS was actively doing by being able to view/hear motion debate speeches, and the Full-Time Officers reports and accountability questions.
9. The removal of live-streaming, and/or recording of NEC meetings infringes on the ability of students to participate in NUS democratic structures, as well as the ability for Student Unions to watch/listen to accountability questions they've submitted.
- 10.That with the growth and abundance of technology and media, NUS needs to lead with how its members can engage with its democratic structures.

NEC resolves

1. To mandate NUS to video record NEC meetings, live-streaming where possible.
2. To mandate NUS to have the recorded NEC meetings be readily available after an NEC meeting to students and student unions, within 2 weeks of said meeting.



3. To mandate NUS to provide all NEC meeting recordings with closed captions, an mp3 format, and a transcript, within an appropriate length of time.

#WITHOUTUS

NEC believes

1. Currently, the UK government's immigration enforcement procedures extend into universities – non-EU international students are subject to strict and costly Tier 4 student visa applications to come to and stay in the UK, as well as intrusive attendance monitoring procedures.
2. Non-EU international students from a majority of countries have limited routes to remain in the UK after graduation, the primary route being employment on a Tier 2 work visa.
3. The average graduate takes 8 months to find a job, but a Tier 4 student visa is only valid for 4 months after graduation.
4. There is currently a Tier 4 pilot scheme in place where Masters students on courses below 13 months in length can remain in the UK for 6 months after graduation, helping them find a job, but it is only available at a limited number of universities.
5. The Migration Advisory Committee has rejected calls from universities, the NUS and Universities UK to implement a post-study work visa for non-EU international students and remove international students from the migration targets.
6. On February 18th 2019, a network of grassroots student activists will organise a national student walkout called #WithoutUs to demand the re-introduction of the post-study work visa, the extension of the Tier 4 pilot scheme to all universities, and the creation of a more welcoming environment for international students.

NEC further believes

1. If the UK leaves the EU, it is possible that migration policies currently applicable to non-EU international students will extend to EU international students.
2. International students from within and outside the EU contribute positively to the UK in general, as well as to both UK students and universities.
3. Even if they did not contribute positively to the UK, international students should not be deterred from exercising their right to higher education and/or seeking employment after graduation because:



- a) All international students have the same right to education and workplace protections as home students;
- b) Forcing international students to return home after graduation is detrimental to their wellbeing, their prospects and the relationships they have built in the UK; and
- c) Restricting the ability of international students to work in the UK after graduation creates a skilled workforce outside the protections of UK/EU labour laws which can be exploited by multi-national companies, disadvantaging both them and UK workers.

NEC resolves

- 1. To support #WithoutUs, sending a message of solidarity to the organisers and publishing a statement of support.
- 2. To provide advice and guidance to students and unions regarding the participation of international students in this student walkout and protests like it.
- 3. To proactively promote #WithoutUs to students and unions through NUS social media and other channels, helping to build turnout and maximise its presence on social media and in the press, while recognising its nature as an autonomous grassroots campaign.

Fascists off our campus

NEC Believes:

- 1. Generation Identity are an explicit hate group that have targeted our campuses with leaflets vilifying Muslim women who wear the Niqab and Migrants
- 2. The leader of the far right AfD attempted to speak at Oxford Union but withdrew after a campaign against the invitation
- 3. Steve Bannon spoke at Oxford Union. He addressed a meeting in France saying 'Let them call you racist... Wear it as a badge of honour'.⁹⁴

⁹⁴<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=bannon+badge+of+honour+racist&&view=detail&mid=43F5C9E2F441BFF2574643F5C9E2F441BFF25746&&FORM=VRDGAR>

4. In the wake of his speech at Oxford Union a local community centre was covered in antisemitic graffiti including the swastika.⁹⁵
5. Fascism on campus is a threat to Jewish, Muslim, African, Arab, Asian, Caribbean, LGBT, Disabled students, Women and all democrats
6. Where fascists have a presence, hate crimes increase.

NEC Resolves:

1. To reaffirm no platform on campus for fascism
2. To raise awareness about the rise in hate crimes that has taken place, which has impacted on members of our liberation campaigns. The rise in religious motivated hate crimes in the last year saw 52% of attacks taking place against Muslim people, and 12% against Jewish people, the next most targeted group.
3. To actively campaign against Generation Identity when they are targeting our campuses

Stop Funding Hate and transphobia in the media

NEC believes

1. National Union of Students currently works with Stop Funding Hate, an organisation which urges commercial organisations to withdraw from advertising agreements with the Daily Mail, the Daily Express and the Sun.
2. Stop Funding Hate argues for the above on the basis that these media organisations propagate through their reporting, editorial positions and opinion writers bigoted views. These include racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.
3. In addition to widespread racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia in the press (not just limited to the above organisations), in response to the increased visibility of transgender people and the upcoming reforms to the Gender Recognition Act there has been increased hostile scrutiny on transgender groups/people and those that provide services for them.
4. On 17th October, the Guardian published an editorial equivocating between those campaigning for trans people to be able to access easier gender recognition and groups who

⁹⁵<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-46263890>

wish to restrict trans women's access to domestic violence services, withdraw health and social care from young trans people and overall create a hostile environment for trans people in the UK.

5. That the anti-trans activist Fair Play for Women raised £40,000 to run a full page advertisement in the Metro arguing in part that trans women do not have a right to access women's services and space.
6. That a collaboration between Mermaids (a charity that supports young trans people and their families) and Stop Funding Hate resulted in trans-exclusionary feminists attacking the organisation and exposed some gaps in knowledge about trans issues in some organisations.
7. To date, articles attacking trans people and trans rights have been found in many sections of the mainstream print media.

NEC further believes

1. NUS have a responsibility to stand up for trans people as part of its historical mission of being a leading voice for social justice in the sector and wider society.
2. That Stop Funding Hate's mission is as relevant now as it ever was.
3. Currently sections of the liberal media are just as responsible for creating a hostile atmosphere for trans people in the UK as the traditional targets of social justice-oriented commercial boycotts and associated political actions.
4. Political education among liberal and/or progressive groups on what constitutes transphobia is sorely needed. Many people who describe themselves as allies to trans people (including in NUS) often use transphobic language/tropes and fail to listen to trans people talking about trans issues.
5. In this context, wider action must be taken to stand up for trans people.

NEC resolves

1. That NUS will offer political education opportunities to Stop Funding Hate on the relationship between transphobic tropes in the media and the hostile climate for trans people.
2. That NUS will lobby for Stop Funding Hate to tackle anti-trans sentiment in the liberal media, short of a boycott.



3. That at the next NUS event focusing on student media, NUS will aim for there to be at least one session on transphobia in the media.



Save our universities!

NEC Believes:

1. Last month it was made public that three universities were on the brink of bankruptcy.⁹⁶
2. The Office for Students confirmed that it would not bail out HE institutions if they need financial support, unlike its predecessor, HEFCE.⁹⁷
3. Reforms to higher education - particularly the lifting of the cap on student numbers and the introduction of trebled fees - have put huge financial strain on universities.

NEC Further Believes:

1. Marketisation has made it more likely that universities 'fail'.
2. When universities 'fail', it means huge numbers of jobs lost, and a loss of security for students and graduates.
3. That universities in financial difficulty won't be supported by the OFS is likely to have disproportionate effect on working-class students and/or students of colour who are more likely to attend universities that are more financially reliant on fees.

NEC Resolves:

1. To release a statement condemning the refusal of the Office for Students to support universities who have been pushed to financial breaking point by marketisation.
2. To produce a plan for how NUS will support students and workers if a university is to fall.

International Students want quality support not extortion

NEC believes

1. The UK government piloted new immigration rules for international students in January 11 2018, regarding tier 4 application and are outline below;
 - a. Student can switch to a work visa and take up a graduate role, by allowing them to remain in the UK for only 6 months. 23 universities to benefit from this pilot which include 2 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 1 in Northern Ireland as well as universities from across England.

⁹⁶ <https://inews.co.uk/news/education/university-bankruptcy-reliant-on-loans/>

⁹⁷ <https://inews.co.uk/news/education/office-for-students-warns-universities-will-not-be-bailed-out>

- b. Students who applied for a study part-time courses in the UK (if the course leads to a qualification at RQF level 7 or SCQF 11) at a higher education institution are not allowed to work including placement), cannot bring family as dependent and switch to other immigration categories permitting work.
2. The gross benefits from international student's amount to £22.6 billion (Average of £87,000 for each EU student and £102,000 for each non-EU student) compared to cost to host international students in the country (£2.3 billion; average of £19,000 for each EU student and £7,000 for each non-EU student) yearly.
3. According to a report from GOV.UK, a quote from the Immigration Minister Brandon Lewis 2017 said; "I am delighted to announce the expansion of this pilot which is part of our ongoing activity to ensure that our world-leading institutions remain highly competitive."

NEC further believes

1. International students make a valuable contribution to the UK economy.
2. This will only make world leading institution competitive, reducing attention on other potential institutions.
3. Tax paid by International students when they work in the UK is a source of income for the UK government, so the law should be fair on them.
4. International students applying for part-time course are disadvantaged.
5. International student sabbatical officers are also disadvantaged due to visa rules.

NEC resolves

1. For NUS UK to lobby for post-study visa opportunity to be provided for all international students equally across the UK and not just focusing on students in only world-leading institutions.
2. NUS UK to lobby UK government for international part-time students to have the opportunity to have at least one of this options (Able to switch to work visa or given a reasonable time to work in the UK).



3. NUS UK to lobby UK Universities to support international students who are elected sabbatical/ full time officers deal with Visa and Immigration issues, including the payment of visa fees. This will give equal opportunity for international student when elected.

Meeting date: 6th February 2019

Support Union Action and Strikes

NEC believes

1. Our education system is marketising at an alarming rate. Our institutions' staff are facing greater barriers and greater exploitative policies and management.⁹⁸
2. Staff trade unions such as UCU have balloted their members for additional strike action for 2019, the ballot closes on the 22nd February. UCU members at 16 English colleges are being called to take strike action for two days starting on Tuesday 29 January.
3. University and college staff are facing removal of their rights, casualised contracts, and continued pay cuts and wage regression, with ever decreasing job and financial security.

NEC further believes

1. There is an increasing atmosphere of hostility towards staff members, with expanding "draconian and discriminatory" staff monitoring policies.
2. The rise in casual and zero-hour contracts and expansion in outsourcing, staff are facing multi-directional attacks to their rights.
3. Strikes and the withholding of labour are actions that are fundamental in achieving change and progress within institutions.

NEC resolves

1. To create toolkits/workshops to mobilise students and provide other material support to staff and trade unions, and to support students activists who show solidarity with striking workers of all kind in the Institution should a HE strike occur.
2. To work collaboratively with grass roots campaign groups in achieving fairer and better working environment in our institutions.

⁹⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2018/may/18/academia-exploitation-university-mental-health-professors-plagiarism>

3. To publicly and openly show solidarity and support to any staff action or strikes.

Solidarity and Support for Prifysgol Bangor Staff and Students

NEC believes

1. Prifysgol Bangor is currently facing continued cuts, having already had approximately 120 jobs cut in 17/18⁹⁹, with a further £5 million in intended cuts by the end of this academic year¹⁰⁰.
2. That despite this apparent financial crisis, in recent years the university has spent over £139 million on its estate (large building projects such as the Menai Science Park and St. Mary's site) and had a net surplus of £17 million.¹⁰¹
3. The Vice-Chancellor had a £750,000 "grace and favour" house refurbishment, and stepped down in December 2018, after "ageist, sexist and racist" communications came to light.¹⁰²
4. Proposed cuts unfairly impact students and staff, with the proposed axing of the entire Chemistry school, which provides the only chemistry degree available through the medium of welsh.

NEC further believes

1. An independent accountant's report, commissioned by trade unions, found that spending had been diverted from staff costs to finance building projects.¹⁰³
2. Total costs spent on academic departments has fallen by nearly 7% over 7 years, with merges and closures to schools and colleges, directly impacting academic staff and students.
3. Bangor senior management cite student recruitment and rising pension provisions as key reasons for the cuts, however Prifysgol Bangor currently pays £10 million a year to service debt accrued from its building projects and estate expansion.
4. Students shouldn't bear the burden of poor senior management choices, particularly when already paying extortionate tuition and living costs.

NEC resolves

1. To support Bangor's staff, students, and associated trade unions as they campaign against cuts, including supporting any strike actions.
2. To support and show solidarity to the Bangor Needs Chemistry Campaign.
3. To campaign on the abolition of "grace and favour" perks and obscenely high salaries for Universities' senior management.

⁹⁹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-40185543>

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-45985499>

¹⁰¹ <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education/university-paid-huge-sums-new-15688798>

¹⁰² <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-46639721>

¹⁰³ <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education/university-paid-huge-sums-new-15688798>

4. To condemn the marketisation of our education, and campaign for students and staff to be the focus of institutions over estate expansions.
5. To condemn the scapegoating of staff costs and staff pensions as the reason for cuts, and to support calls for better transparency.

Rule out No Deal

NUS Believes

1. The current impasse in parliament over Theresa May's Brexit deal has made the prospect of leaving the European Union with no deal more likely.
2. The stance of many of those involved in the official leave campaign is to advocate for a no deal Brexit as a "clean break" from the EU.

NUS Further Believes

1. A no deal Brexit would be disastrous for students in Universities and Colleges across the UK
2. Students in Northern Ireland would be particularly affected as a no deal Brexit would immediately bring the EU's single market in direct conflict with the Good Friday Agreement, risking a hard border
3. It is still unclear what the status for British students in Europe would be in the event of a no-deal Brexit as they would lose their legal status immediately and would be up for individual EU countries to decide how they are treated
4. Universities, Colleges and students would be directly affected by the potential food shortages, medicine shortages and other unforeseen consequences of leaving with no deal which the government are currently woefully underprepared for

NUS Resolves

1. To demand that the government and parliament rule out a no-deal Brexit
2. To re-affirm our commitment to support a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal in line with policy passed at National Conference last year

