

## Resolutions from NEC

<b>Author</b>	Motions and amendments submitted by individual NEC members
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## Transparency, Accountability, and Visibility for NEC

### NEC believes

1. NUS is a democratic organization that should hold transparency, accountability and engagement at its core.
2. NUS consistently struggles with engagement of students and student leaders, particularly within its interim democratic spaces, such as NEC meetings and activities.
3. 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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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'.<sup>1</sup>
4. In the wake of his speech at Oxford Union a local community centre was covered in antisemitic graffiti including the swastika.<sup>2</sup>
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

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=bannon+badge+of+honour+racist&&view=detail&mid=43F5C9E2F441BFF2574643F5C9E2F441BFF25746&&FORM=VRDGAR>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-46263890>

## 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 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.<sup>3</sup>
2. The Office for Students confirmed that it would not bail out HE institutions if they need financial support, unlike its predecessor, HEFCE.<sup>4</sup>
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.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://inews.co.uk/news/education/university-bankruptcy-reliant-on-loans/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://inews.co.uk/news/education/office-for-students-warns-universities-will-not-be-bailed-out>



## **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.
  - 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.