




nus **women** **CONFERENCE**

Women Students' Campaign Live Policy 2017-20

If you need this document in another
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or email events@nus.org.uk





Purpose of this paper

This paper contains all the live policy for the Women's Campaign as agreed by Women's Students' Conference 2017, 2018 and 2019. Policy agreed in 2016 will expire at conference 2019.

Policy Lapse

Policy Lapses in 2 circumstances:

1. If a subsequent policy over-rides it.
2. After 3 years unless Women's Conference votes to renew it.

Policy passed at Women's Conference 2017 will lapse at the end of Women's Conference 2020.


What you need to do

If you are considering submitting policy to Women's 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, please contact democracy@nus.org.uk.

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Policy Passed at Women's Conference 2017

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

Motion 101: Gendered Hate Crime


Conference Notes


1. In the last year there has been an increase in racially, and religiously, motivated hate crimes in the UK, particularly online and on social media.
2. There has been a particular rise in online harassment of women of faith, including current Member of Parliament for Liverpool Wavertree, Luciana Berger, who described the messages as
 - a. "pornographic, sometimes violent, and often very misogynistic."
3. NUS NEC members have often been the target of anti-Semitic, racist, or Islamophobic online abuse that often has misogynistic elements to it.
4. Tell MAMA outline that anti-Muslim hate is clearly gendered. They state in their 2015 Annual Report that "Muslim women are more likely to be attacked than men in most settings".
5. The same report recorded 468 victims in 437 incidents. 61% of victims (287) are female. 55% of all victims were visibly Muslim, but 75% of all female victims were visibly Muslim.
6. In their 2015 Annual Report, the Community Security Trust received a description of the gender of the victim or victims in 511 (55%) of the 924 anti-Semitic incidents reported to CST during 2015. Of these, the victims were female in 134 incidents (26%) and groups of males and females together in 48 incidents (9%).

Conference believes

1. Women of faith encounter specific challenges that are still yet to be addressed. The NUS Women's Campaign should aim to address these.
2. The NUS Women in Leadership Conference, and the work around it, has empowered women from different faiths and backgrounds to become engaged in the work of the NUS Women's Campaign.
3. Jewish students do not directly identify into any of the NUS Liberation Campaigns and therefore it is important that the NUS Women's Campaign facilitates discussion around faith and belief.

Conference resolves

1. To work with Universities UK and faith-based organisations, such as UJS, FOSIS and National Hindu Students Forum, to assess what further work needs to be done in relation to online harassment and hate crime.
 2. To work with social media providers, specifically Twitter and Facebook, to look at ways to prevent online harassment against women of faith that is often misogynistic in tone.
 3. To produce guidance for HE and FE Students' Unions on gendered discrimination in order to support them in tackling it.
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4. For the NUS Women's Campaign to run a 'Women of Faith' Campaign that raises awareness of the challenges that face women of faith and celebrates their contributions to their faiths.
 5. To increase the number of spaces that women of faith have to discuss the discrimination and the challenges that they face in a safe space.

Motion 102: Student Survivors Deserve Better

Conference Notes

1. Recent research has highlighted the problem of abuse and harassment by staff towards students, and faced by, particularly junior, women staff¹;
2. Sussex University allowed a senior lecturer to continue working despite allegations of abuse and police investigation². At Goldsmiths, Sara Ahmed, the former head of the Centre for Feminist Research, publicly quit her post, citing ongoing and endemic harassment³.
3. In November Universities UK (UUK) published the findings of its taskforce on campus sexual violence, alongside guidance replacing the outdated Zellick Report;

Conference believes

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. That the NUS Women's Campaign has already begun working with the 1752 Group to launch a research project into student-staff misconduct, but that there is no active policy to mandate the campaign to do so;
5. That sexual assault can happen to any person, at any level of education. This means that further Education students in colleges face this too;

Conference resolves


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;

¹ www.theguardian.com/education/2016/aug/26/sexual-harassment-of-students-by-university-staffhidden-bynon-disclosure-agreements and <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/oct/07/scale-ofsexual-abuse-in-uk-universities-likened-to-savile-and-catholic-scandals>

² <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sussex-university-lecturer-student-girlfriendcriminal-conviction-beat-up-assault-lee-salter-a7183391.html>

³ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/london-university-goldsmiths-professorquits-sexual-harassment-female-students-staff-a7072131.html>




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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.
 5. For the Women's Campaign to launch research into what sexual harassment reporting procedures and structures are like, and the experiences of student survivors in further Education colleges;
 6. Off the back of that research to work with FE Students' Unions to develop a framework of structures for reporting harassment and for survivor support, and to lobby FE institutions to adopt this;
 7. To work with the National Society of Apprentices to ensure survivor support structures are in place for apprentices in their colleges and/or their work place.


Motion 103: Solidarity with Northern Ireland's Abortion Crisis

Conference Notes

1. The Abortion Act 1967 has never been extended to Northern Ireland;
2. The foundation of NI abortion law remains the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 which makes it a criminal offence to have an abortion or perform one on another person. The 1861 Act is still in effect in England and Wales;
3. The introduction of the Abortion Act 1967 did not decriminalise abortion in England and Wales: it allowed exceptions to the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act under which the obtaining or performing an abortion would be lawful;
4. An abortion will be lawful in NI if performed:
 - a. To save the life of the pregnant person; or
 - b. Where continuing the pregnancy would risk permanent and serious damage to the physical or mental health of the pregnant person;
5. In the past, people have been arrested for trying to procure an abortion (be it through a GP, travelling to England to obtain an abortion or through backstreet/ self-induced abortions)
6. On 4 April 2016, a 21-year-old woman was given a three month suspended sentence for procuring an abortion with pills purchased online. She had been reported to the PSNI by her housemates;
7. International students and students from elsewhere in the UK may understandably arrive in Northern Ireland under the false impression that because Northern Ireland is part of the UK, abortion will be legal and accessible on the local NHS;
8. However, this is not true when registered with a GP in Northern Ireland, you no longer have access to abortion;
9. Students who are Northern Ireland nationals studying in other parts of the UK do not qualify for abortion on the NHS

Conference believes

1. Access to reproductive healthcare is a student welfare issue: students do face crisis pregnancies which have an adverse effect on their university lives;
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2. The unavailability of safe and legal abortion in Northern Ireland places an undue burden on these students in an already distressing situation;
 3. If an international student falls pregnant unexpectedly while living in Northern Ireland, they will likely not be able to extend their study visa to accommodate their pregnancy or maternity, nor can they access abortion services in Northern Ireland unless they meet the very strict criteria;

Conference resolves

1. This motion is in itself a statement of solidarity with those for access to free, safe and legal abortion in Northern Ireland;
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to release a formal statement of solidarity with those in Northern Ireland;
3. That the incoming Women's Officer and NUS Women's Campaign continue to support pro-choice activists and pro-choice resistance in Northern Ireland
4. To lobby the Government to make exceptions for students from Northern Ireland who are studying in other parts of the UK to have access to abortion on the NHS.

Motion 104: The Price of a Period


Conference Notes

1. Sanitary products control and manage menstruation
2. Sanitary products are currently subject to 5% VAT

Conference believes

1. Sanitary items are not a luxury.
2. Sanitary products are expensive, and when living on a tight budget they can be difficult to access.
3. That students are facing a cost of living crisis.
4. Most homeless shelters can't provide sanitary products, so for homeless people with periods accessing these essential items is even harder.
5. Although some food banks have begun distributing sanitary items, many still do not.
6. Homelessness is a hidden problem among students

Conference resolves

1. To work with NUSSL (National Union of Students Services Limited) to encourage them to get tax free sanitary products available for Students' Unions, and to reduce the overall cost of sanitary items.
 2. To create a toolkit on running tampon drives, creating period packages, and linking up with local organisations, charities, etc.
 3. Work, where possible, to support Students' Unions to get free sanitary products available for students.
 4. To work with the further Education members on the Women's Committee and the self-defining Women on the further Education Zone Committee to ensure this policy in practice works for FE Students' Unions.
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Motion 105: Reproductive Justice

Conference Notes

1. Reproductive rights activism, like the feminist movement, has often been exclusive and focused on white, cisgender, able-bodied, middle-class women.
2. People of colour often face abusive and coercive reproductive medical practices, such as: forced sterilisation of women of colour across the globe; the use of experimental and dangerous contraception like Norplant, etc.
3. Disabled people also face risk of sterilisation due to ableist beliefs about their ability and a faux concern for their welfare or children's welfare.
4. Many people cannot access adequate reproductive healthcare due to cost, cuts to their healthcare services, or geographical location.
5. Reproductive rights activism has focused on contraception and abortion, but ignored other barriers to people's reproductive capacities such as access to welfare, healthcare, childcare, poverty, and many other factors.
6. Women of colour in America developed the theory of Reproductive Justice to challenge the dominant narrative and make reproductive rights campaigning inclusive.

Conference believes

1. Whilst the NUS supports and promotes Pro-Choice activism, it must be recognised that the ability to have choice is a privilege. Some people do not have choice or their choice is taken away from them due to their circumstances and oppressions.
2. The framework of Reproductive Justice promotes this idea and a comprehensive and inclusive approach to reproductive rights.


Conference resolves


1. To mandate the NUS Women's Campaign to create a toolkit on Reproductive Justice to allow a narrative on reproductive rights that ensures campaigning is inclusive of ALL - not just cisgender, straight, white, able-bodied, middle-class women.

Zone: Society and Citizenship

Motion 201: Securing an Institutional Wide Approach to tackling Sexual Violence through prevention and support

Conference Notes

1. NUS and the Women's Campaign has focused on tackling Sexual Harassment and Violence for a number of years. Collecting data, publishing reports and creating toolkits which have been a great resource for Student Unions.
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2. One in seven women experience sexual violence or harassment at University as outlined by the Hidden Marks campaign and reiterated in a recent study⁴.
 3. Consent workshops have been delivered by Students Unions during this time.
 4. Films and documentaries such as "The Hunting Ground" have brought to light these kinds of behaviours in American institutions and therefore, these concerns are more prevalent in society across the US, Australia and the UK⁵.
 5. ⁵ "High rates of unreported sexual violence, along with the serious harms caused is of fundamental importance in contributing to the argument for the need for university communities to enact their civic duties in both improving the prevention of sexual violence and also ensuring that those reporting sexual violence get the appropriate support along with respondents." - Graham Towl (Tackling sexual violence at UK universities: a case study)⁶.
 6. NUS Women's Campaign are currently working towards developing bystander programmes and training.

Conference believes

1. Bystander intervention programmes have been identified as a key area in the protection of female students at University
2. Unions are not currently adequately supported to deliver bystander intervention campaigns; institutional partnership should be encouraged and supported in order to aid the delivery of such campaigns - such as the current proposed partnership between Keele SU and Bradford College. For information about the city wide work currently taking place at Keele and Staffordshire University⁷
3. Research undertaken by Public Health England and Universities UK states that more support is needed in getting Sexual Violence Policy embedded in Unions and Institutions and that this must be institution wide.
4. It is important and imperative that NUS continues to work to tackle sexual violence in both FE and HE institutions and that Students' Unions and Union Officers are empowered and equipped with knowledge and support to drive change in their institutions.
5. The University of West England has had major success in embedding this into their curriculum demonstrated through the research commissioned by Public Health England.

Conference resolves

1. NUS will help Students' Unions and Officers establish Institutional Wide Approaches to tackling Sexual Violence through prevention and support.
2. NUS Women's Campaign will produce guidance alongside relevant organisations on how Students' Unions can get training and support on dealing with Sexual Violence cases. This guidance will be to benefit Student Union Advice Centres, Officers, staff and internal structures.


⁴ www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/Spotted___Obligations_to_Protect_Women_Students_Safety___Equality.pdf

⁵ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hunting_Ground

⁶ www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21582041.2016.1260764?journalCode=rsoc21

⁷ www.keele.ac.uk/activebystanders/



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3. NUS will launch a campaign on Bystander Intervention including aims that encourage HE institutions to partner with FE institutions to target behaviours and share resources in a community wide approach.
 4. NUS Women's Campaign will launch a toolkit on Bystander Intervention to include campaigning, training and partnership
 5. NUS will work and lobby to secure Bystander Intervention Programmes in FE and HE Institutions.

Motion 202: Raising Awareness of Gendered Islamophobia

Conference Notes


1. In August 2016, the government released a report into the Employment Opportunities for Muslims in the UK (following an enquiry)⁸
2. Muslim women face the greatest pay gap of 22.4 per cent (the greatest pay gap in the whole of the UK);
3. The report also concluded that Muslim women face a "triple penalty": being women, being BME and being Muslim
4. Unemployment rates for Muslims are more than twice that of the general population (12.8% compared to
5. 5.4%).
6. 41% of the Muslim population in the UK are economically inactive, compared to 21.8% of the general population. The disadvantage is greater still for Muslim women: 65% of economically inactive Muslims are women;
7. Incidents of anti-Muslim abuse (Islamophobia) rose by 326% in 2015;
8. The vast majority of Islamophobic incidents that occur in the UK are directed at those perceived to be "visibly Muslim": Muslim wearing the hijab, niqab, abaya and so forth;
9. According to research Islamophobia is causing a "chill factor", whereby the perception and fear of discrimination or even hostility of colleagues is putting Muslim women off applying for certain jobs.

Conference believes

1. The report in question found that reasons behind these discrepancies to be varied and complex;
2. They can include: discrimination and Islamophobia, stereotyping, pressure from traditional families, a lack of tailored advice around higher education choices, and insufficient role models across education and employment;
3. The NUS Women's Campaign has already launched a survey into the experiences of Muslim women on campuses and colleges, but there is no policy mandating the campaign to do so;
4. That gendered islamophobia (and Islamophobia in general) is a student issue because Muslim women are targeted on campuses e.g. at King's College London

⁸ www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalitiescommittee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry/



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5. Prevent is more likely to be targeted to Muslim (or those perceived to be Muslim i.e. those who are visibly Muslim);
 6. Far right activity is sweeping across Europe and America, and is likely to have further implications on Muslim women's livelihood;

Conference resolves

1. To mandate the NUS Women's Campaign to issue a statement of solidarity with Muslim women students;
2. To create a toolkit for Student Unions to challenge gendered Islamophobia on Campus;
3. To work with Black Students' Campaign to campaign against the Prevent legislation

Motion 203: Support Migrant Reproductive Rights!


Conference Notes

1. The government's current policy does not allow International students who may get pregnant while studying the ability to give birth in the UK.
2. They and any dependants will normally need to leave the UK, then apply for new Tier 4 entry clearance in order to return to the UK and resume their studies.
3. In the event that they do give birth in the country, if they then leave they are not allowed to return with their dependents.
4. Migrant women may also be subject to show their passports at maternity wards before giving birth.

Conference believes

1. All of these policies are deeply xenophobic and racist, and promote a worrying culture of nationalism, individualism and disregard human rights.
2. At a time of increased racism and fascism where migrants are facing attacks upon their civil liberties, we should ensure that they have access to adequate reproductive healthcare.

Conference resolves

1. To mandate the NUS Women's Campaign and Officer to work alongside the NUS International Students Officer to actively campaign against this regressive policy.
 2. To mandate both the NUS International Students Officer and Women's Officer to create a toolkit on Reproductive Rights that is inclusive of International students and migrants.
 3. That both the NUS International Students Officer and Women's Officer should campaign for the right for all international students, regardless of nationality to be able to either give birth or get an abortion in the UK
 4. That the NUS International Students Officer and Women's Officer should lobby the government to reexamine the current policy and adopt a new one that will allow international students to either give birth or get an abortion in the UK
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Zone: Education

Motion 401: Campaign on Sexual Assault as Mitigating Circumstance

Conference notes

1. That the NUS Hidden Marks survey/report conducted in 2011 found that 16% of respondents had experienced unwanted kissing, touching or groping during their time at university.
2. That 7% of respondents to this survey had been subjected to a serious sexual assault during their time at university⁹
3. That 4/10 of the survivors of serious sexual assault surveyed had told nobody about the assault
4. That one in four victims of serious sexual assault that responded to the Hidden Marks survey said that their studies had been affected
5. That 49% of respondents that had suffered serious sexual assaults reported issues with their mental health
6. That 13% of respondents that had suffered serious sexual assaults had contemplated leaving their course
7. That the US organisation RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) found that 33% of women who are raped contemplate or have contemplated suicide¹⁰.
8. That 13% of women who have been raped had attempted suicide.
9. That 40% of a survey of women surveyed with severe mental health issues had suffered rape or attempted rape in adulthood.
10. That transgender students are at higher risk of sexual violence (21% of transgender, genderqueer, nonconforming (TGQN)) have experienced some form of sexual violence while studying compared to 18% non-TGQN females and 4% non-TGQN males).
11. That Sisters Uncut found that 4 in 5 BME women are turned away from domestic violence services¹¹.

Conference believes

1. That Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence are serious issues affecting students.
2. That these issues have a detrimental impact on students' lives and studies.
3. That more needs to be done to support victims of sexual assault and domestic throughout their academic studies.
4. That in many cases the conditions for mitigation fail to fully take into account serious issues such as sexual assault and domestic violence.
5. That a national campaign that includes Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence as mitigating circumstances is necessary.
6. That any campaign conducting around the issue of sexual assault and domestic violence needs to be inclusive of the diverse demographic of students affected.

⁹ www.nus.org.uk/global/nus_hidden_marks_report_2nd_edition_web.pdf

¹⁰ www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence ¹¹ www.sistersuncut.org/press/





Conference resolves


1. To launch a national campaign for the inclusion of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence as mitigating circumstances.
2. To support unions that are running similar campaigns or have already implemented this into their academic procedures.
3. To ensure that any campaign ran will be fully inclusive of all students, including but not limited to: Women of Colour, disabled women, queer women, trans women, non-binary people and people of faith.
4. To conduct research on the impact of suffering from domestic violence whilst at university.


Policy Lapse

Society and Citizenship

Motion 201: A Woman's Right To Protest

Conference believes


1. Protest has played a significant role in bringing about social and political change for women.
 2. Protest takes a diverse range of forms, be it industrial action, civil disobedience, boycotts, occupations, marches, petitions or direct action.
 3. Women do not just take part in "women's actions", we are also a vibrant and vital part of broader protest movements.
 4. Many women students report feeling disempowered and shut out of 'traditional' forms of protest, as masculinist modes of protest dominate and women are undermined and written out of protest histories and organising spaces.
 5. Women's role in protest is frequently demeaned by those within protest movements; such as the sexism behind 'Hot Chicks of Occupy Wall Street' and the belittling of older women involved in Occupy.
 6. We are facing increased attacks on our right to protest during a time of unprecedented austerity measures. These include the routine use of kettling, indiscriminate batoning by police, excessive charging of protesters and sentencing in courts, as well as educational institutions collaborating with the Police and Government to shut down our democratic rights.
 7. Brocialism and Manarchism unfortunately thrive. NUS and left-wing women students have been at the front of tackling misogyny in our own movements, providing much needed solidarity and challenging our own organisations to take women's political voices seriously.
 8. There should be zero tolerance of any infringement that is degrading and contrary to the dignity of women, and in particular when it affects physical and mental health.
 9. That the wave of repression against student activists (mass arrests in London and Birmingham, suspensions at Birmingham and Sussex, heavy-handed policing of demos etc) should be a matter of serious concern for our movement
 10. That contrary to police propaganda, extensive police presence on campuses is not the way to guarantee women's safety
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11. That we should fight for 'Cops off campus' by campaigning for
 12. A law that prohibits police presence on campuses/university property without the permission of both university management and the students' union;
 13. Universities to agree, and write into regulations, that they will not invite police onto campus without the permission of the SU
 14. There have been incidents of violence against women at student protests such as the the protests at the University of London

Conference further believes

1. Women are disproportionately affected by the Government's devastating austerity agenda – it is vital that women are supported and empowered to lead the way not only on engaging in protests, but in shaping their narratives. In representing over 4 million women, NUS Women's Campaign has a unique role to play here.
2. Women students are part of their local, national and global communities. Our campaigns should be working together with women in community groups and across the women's sector, with LGBT, black and disabled campaigning organisations, to develop multifaceted collective calls for action that strengthen our voices and push for our liberation.
3. There is no one right way to protest. As a campaign we must champion and offer a diversity of tactics and methods, bringing our communities together to make change.
4. We must champion and support the excellent work that women students are doing to tackle women's exclusion in protest spaces, from organising facilitation training for women to empower them to lead inclusive meetings, to organising to dismantle rape culture in leftist organisations.
5. That it is well-established that both mounting student debt and cuts are having a disproportionate effect on women
6. That we should demand free education and a living grant for every student, oppose all cuts, and demand taxation of the rich, taking control of the resources of the banks etc, to restore and expand public services

Conference resolves

1. NUS Women's Campaign will develop tool kits and action packs to support women students to lead their own protests and campaigns with their local communities.
 2. NUS Women's Campaign will provide opportunities for women students to discuss their role in protest around tactics and women's place on the left for example, providing much needed spaces for women students to selforganise.
 3. NUS Women's Campaign will continue to stand firmly against misogyny in our own movements.
 4. To unite with other women's groups to campaign against human rights abuses, including that of rights and freedom to protest and freedom of association.
 5. To campaign against police repression of student activists and campaign for 'Cops off campus' on the basis set out above
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6. To produce a briefing including explanation of how this policy relates to our campaigns for women students' safety on campus
 7. To campaign for free education, against cuts, and for the restoration and expansion of public services on the basis set out above
 8. To oppose security and police violence against women at UoL during protests and to support Cops off Campus and encourage a spaces for women students to protest without the fear of police brutality.

Motion 402: Start Tackling with Training

Conference believes

1. Education is a key way to tackle sexism and lad culture within university.
2. The issue of 'lad culture' at university has been getting a lot more attention since the recent Women's Campaign report: 'That's What She Said'.
3. 'Lad Culture' can be present in any student group: society, sports, etc.
4. All student groups have committees that should be provided with some form of committee training by the student unions to ensure they are a functioning committee.

Conference further believes


1. Committee training often does not include the principles of zero tolerance or gender equality.
2. Many people need to be educated in what can actually contribute to sexual harassment.
3. Committee training is a good place to educate key members of student groups.


Conference resolves

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to push for the addition of gender equality and 'what constitutes as sexual harassment' (zero tolerance) training onto the committee training agenda of all societies/sports clubs/student activities in all student unions.
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to create a pack of information to help unions provide the correct information within these training sessions.
3. There must be systems invoked for confidential reporting. Statistics must be kept to review processes, progress and outcomes of investigations, and addressing policy changes needed.

Motion 403: Women in leadership

Conference believes


1. Women make up the majority of the student population, but are underrepresented in positions of power and decision making in the student movement.
 2. The fact is that there are far too few women in positions of leadership in our universities and colleges, but also in our students unions, and civil society. Only 22% of professors in UK universities and only 17% of our Vice Chancellors are women.
 3. 56% of students in tertiary education are women, and yet only around a third of our students' union presidents are women.
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4. That we should be inspired not by women who have risen to the top of businesses or the capitalist political system by proving their willingness and ability to enforce exploitation and oppression on other women (and men), but by women fights against exploitation and oppression
 5. That the International Women's Day events organised by (low-paid, precarious, mostly migrant) women in the IWGB Union to celebrate working-class women's solidarity and expose the anti-worker and anti-feminist role of women managers and bosses is the kind of thing we should support as part of fighting for 'Women in Leadership'

Conference further believes

1. Currently the default image of a leader is a white non-disabled heterosexual cis man which means that people seeking election or influence and define into a liberation group face disadvantage and prejudice in seeking to be a decision maker
2. Issues of women's inequality and underrepresentation can't be addressed just by getting more individual women into positions of leadership. Women in leadership is fundamentally about radically altering the structure of power, how we conceptualise power, and how it is used.
3. The gendered nature of power under a system of patriarchy means that women face barriers to accessing and challenging power when power is normalised as male.
4. In order to be successful, campaigning on women in leadership must focus on all 3 aspects of the work: individual capacity (public speaking workshops, confidence building etc.), structural barriers (reserving places for women in democratic structures in order to reach critical mass) and changing organisational culture (tackling lad culture and sexist norms).
5. Black/lgbt/disabled women are particularly underrepresented and should always be targeted and prioritised in our work to change what we understand as leadership.
6. In particular, black women's marginalisation in the feminist movement has been a shameful stain on the feminist movement with many white women who are recognised as feminist leaders claiming to reject intersectionality and refusing to check their white privilege. The NUS women's campaign rejects any marginalisation of black women under the name of feminism and believes that a feminism without intersectionality is no feminism at all.

Conference resolves

1. To support student unions in improving their democratic legitimacy by improving both the number of women in key leadership positions as well as crucially the diversity of women in leadership
 2. For nus to continue to run women only sessions at summer training courses and make a woman only session compulsory at all residential summer training events
 3. To continue to develop the I will lead the way coaching scheme with a particular focus on providing black, LGBT and disabled women with coaches
 4. To produce a pamphlet and exhibition for SUs celebrating the struggles of women fighters against exploitation and oppression through history and today – "Women leading in the struggle."
 5. To create a guide for student union offers on how to deliver women in leadership workshops on campuses to encourage more women from different backgrounds to run in campus elections.
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Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

Motion 502: Anti-FGM

Conference believes

1. Since 1985 it has been a serious criminal offence under the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act to perform FGM or to assist a girl to perform FGM on herself. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 tightened this law to criminalise FGM being carried out on UK citizens overseas.
2. There has been an increasing awareness of the issue of female genital mutilation in England, with national newspaper articles and documentaries on Channel 4.
3. MPs are probing the issue of Female Genital Mutilation in the UK, with a select inquiry probing why since FGM was made a crime in 1985, it still occurs and there have been NO prosecutions.
4. Campaigners estimate that there are 66,000 women living in Britain who have suffered FGM with a further 24,000 girls aged 11 or under thought to be at risk.

Conference further believes


1. FGM is abuse. Although it can happen within families who do not see it as such.
2. FGM is a criminal act which causes severe physical and mental harm to victims both in the short and long term and for this reason it cannot be condoned or excused.
3. Much more needs to be done to support victims of FGM.
4. Much more needs to be done to prosecute those who 'cut' or arrange for FGM.


Conference resolves

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to write a model letter to MPs asking for them to push for more to be done surrounding the issue of FGM, for activists to use.
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to lobby the government for more support for victims and to stop being "politically correct" and tackle the issue head on.
3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to support and take direction from grass-roots survivor-led anti-FGM Organisations in regards to supporting any further anti-FGM legislation that passes through the UK
4. Men to be asked and made aware of supporting the campaign against FGM. This is crucial where in any circumstances anyone is intending to perform, and/or actually aid, assist, encourage or be coerced in performing an act of FGM.

Motion 503: Prioritising campaigning on student carers

Conference believes

1. A student carer is a student of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends who could not manage without this help. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems.
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2. Student carers are under-represented in further and higher education. The difference is particularly stark for women aged 16–24; 10 per cent of women carers in that age range who care for more than 50 hours per week are in education, compared to 17 per cent of men carers.
 3. The NUS women's campaign produced 'learning with care' in 2013 which was the first ever comprehensive research into the experiences of student carers in the UK
 4. Only 36 per cent of student carers felt able to balance commitments such as work, study, and family/relationships, compared to 53 per cent of students without caring responsibilities.
 5. More than half of student carers (56 per cent) had seriously considered leaving their course, compared to 39 per cent of students without caring responsibilities.
 6. Student carers had experienced varying degrees of support from their institutions, but in all cases there was a lack of coordinated, systematic support.
 7. Two thirds of student carers (67 per cent) regularly worry about not having enough money to meet their basic living expenses. Many student carers have had to sacrifice all or some of their social life in order to study and provide care
 8. Student carers who were in receipt of Carer's Allowance did not feel the benefit was adequate, but the fact that full-time students are not eligible for Carer's Allowance was considered unfair and contributing to their financial hardship.
 9. Student carers were three times as likely to have taken on high-risk debt as students without caring responsibilities, even though they were less likely to have taken out low-risk debt.

Conference further believes

1. Access to education is a key social justice issue for women and it is important that within the context of austerity cuts which are decimating public services including support for carers that women who care are not denied or deterred from entering apprenticeships, further and/or higher education
2. That due to patriarchy, the nature of caregiving in the UK is gendered, with women expected to be the primary caregivers and as with other areas of work which are dominated by women this work is devalued in society

Conference resolves

1. That the NUS women's campaign should continue to campaign for the recommendations in 'learning with care' to be implemented locally at colleges and universities
2. That the NUS women's campaign should campaign nationally for the collection and use of monitoring data and a replacement of the unpaid carers allowance for student carers in full time education
3. That the NUS women's campaign should make campaigning on student carers one of the priority campaigns for the academic year 2014/2015
4. To campaign against cuts to services and benefits, and for taxation of the rich to restore and expand publicly provided social care services, provide living benefits, and create jobs on a living wage.

Motion 504: Women Studying Abroad





Conference believes


1. Studying abroad as part of a course is already recognised as a fantastic opportunity by both educational institutions and NUS.
2. Anti-sexism safe-guards manifest differently in educational institutions around the world.
3. Educational institutions and study abroad programs have a legal and moral obligation to safeguard their students who they send on study abroad programs.
4. Students on study abroad should not be restricted in opportunities, whether educational or informal, based on their gender.
5. Students on study abroad are often unable to report sexism and sexual harassment as they do not know where to report it.
6. Students on study abroad are sometimes unable to report sexism and sexual harassment as the institution abroad and study abroad program have no place to report incidents.


Conference resolves

1. To lobby institutions, erasmus and other study abroad schemes to provide comprehensive information about where students can go to report sexism when they are on study abroad.
2. To lobby institutions, erasmus and other study abroad schemes to provide a system of support for students who face sexism on study abroad programs.

Motion 505: Improving the lives of student sex workers

Conference believes


1. The term 'sex worker' includes people working in escort work, lap dancing, stripping, pornography, selling sex (on or off street), webcamming, adult models and phone sex work.
 2. Research on sex work has shown that the main reason for entering into and staying in sex work is due to financial hardship. For instance, 93% of sex workers in New Zealand reported financial need as their reasons for entering the industry.
 3. Financial reasons, and any criminal record gain due to the criminalisation of sex work, are also cited as the main reason for staying in sex work.
 4. The current regime of cuts to services and support has disproportionately affected women and women's services, putting more women students into financial hardship.
 5. The increasing cost of rents, household bills and energy bills leave many students with not enough money their funding for other expenses, including enough money to properly feed themselves.
 6. The NUS Women's Campaign passed a motion in 2011 resolving to conduct research into student sex workers and since 2012, the NUS Wales Women's Campaign has been conducting national research in Wales on the National Student Sex Work Project
 7. Sex work is work. We should all be free to choose what we do with our time, labour power and our bodies. Under neoliberal capitalism how 'free' any of us are, regardless of what work we undertake, is debatable.
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8. Sex work, like domestic labour, is gendered, classed and raced. Women's work is undervalued and undermined, and disabled, LGBT and black women face further complex oppressions and exploitations that further devalue and control their labour power.

Conference further believes

1. The cuts, combined with tuition fees, has likely increased the number of student sex workers, increasing demand on services and the number of people who need additional support.
2. Sex workers have a diverse range of needs in addition to and different from other students, and face more barriers to accessing support for those needs.
3. Stigma against sex workers increases the risks for all people involved in the sex industry, and makes sex workers less likely to seek out help and support.
4. Sex workers often do not have proper union representation or membership, and do not have access to adequate sick pay, holiday pay or pensions.
5. There has been a lack of research focusing on student sex workers themselves and their needs in the UK, leading to a lack of understanding of the needs they face.
6. Local projects are currently running in different areas of the country, such as Swansea and Leeds; however there has been no national research aimed specifically at sex workers. The NUS Women's Campaign is uniquely placed to conduct this research.
7. The lack of easily accessible methods of funding post-graduate education highly increases the likelihood of women to use sex work to fund their education.
8. NUS Women's Campaign doesn't just represent students – it stands for social justice and we stand with all sex workers whether in education or not.
9. Raids on brothels mostly target businesses where undocumented workers are suspected, resulting often in physical and sexual abuse of sex workers. Migrant workers are further vulnerable at the hands of the state, which uses racist narratives of 'protection' to justify their deportation, exploitation and criminalisation.
10. Research has shown that migrant sex workers in Britain consider regularisation of their status to be the single thing most needed to protect themselves from abuse and exploitation (Mai, 2011)
11. Sex workers are already part of the trade union movement and we champion this. They have the right to unionise, full labour rights, and full human rights.
12. Students and work is a priority for NUS. Those working in informal economies, including sex workers, should be as much a part of this as anyone else

Conference resolves

1. To conduct research into student sex workers and their needs in the UK
 2. To make the results of this research the basis of further work by the NUS Women's Campaign to support student sex workers.
 3. To make this research a priority campaign of the NUS Women's Campaign.
 4. To work with sex worker led organisations, such as the English Collective of Prostitutes, Sex Worker Open University and National Ugly Mugs to improve the lives of sex workers.
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5. Support the International Union of Sex Workers, and champion sex worker's right to form and join unions, and to receive the same benefits as other workers.
 6. Work with sexworker-led organisations to produce specialist training for student-facing support staff on the needs of sex workers, including peer support where students can organise with other student sex workers in a safe - and if necessary anonymous - environment.

Motion 507: Online Accountability

Conference believes

1. That social media is a huge platform to share information and promote our campaign
2. On occasions social media is being used detrimentally to the wellbeing and safety of students
3. There is not a consistent, effective means of accountability when dealing with all forms of online harassment and the objectification of women in educational institutions
4. Students have a right to dignity at study and this should extend to an online presence
5. Institutions have a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing and safety of its students, extending to online material
6. Women students are being degraded, objectified and harassed by new surges of websites and social media (e.g. spotted, confession pages, ratemash.com)
7. This encourages some to not see the crime in harassment and violation on the internet as they are not being held accountable for their actions
8. Women are disproportionality victims of online harassment through websites and social media
9. Institutions need clearer guidelines and stricter policy on how to manage and tackle online harassment

Conference resolves

1. That the Women's Campaign carry out research into the detrimental effects of this use of online media alongside the three other liberation campaigns
 2. To create a report and guide for students to take back and put into effect on their campuses
 3. To support and encourage all unions/institutions to tackle this issue on their campuses
 4. To assist Unions in developing local policy and regulations with their partner institutions which ensures that online harassment is dealt with as an offence
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Policy Passed at Women's Conference 2018

Zone: Strong and Active Unions

Motion 101: Provide Financial Support to NUS-USI Women's Campaign

Conference notes

1. The NUS-USI Women's Campaign is one of the existing liberation campaigns for NUS-USI;
2. The NUS-USI Women's Campaign has active policy on Decriminalisation of Sex Work, Campaigning Against the Two Child Tax Credit and the Rape Clause, Support for Women Apprentices etc.;
3. The Women's Officer role at NUS-USI is voluntary and unpaid position - unlike it Scottish, Welsh and UK counterpart(s);

Conference believes

1. The NUS-USI Women's Campaign has led on student organising including helping to organise a "Student Bloc" at the Rally for Choice Demonstration in October 2017;
2. Though the NUS-USI Women's Campaign does brilliant work in representing women students in N.Ireland, it is often limited in its capacity to enact/ deliver on policy due to issues of underfunding;
3. The NUS UK Women's Campaign has a responsibility to support NUS-USI Women's Campaign and the NUS-USI Women's Officer;
4. Providing financial support is by no means the only solution to ensuring NUS-USI Women's Campaign is supported adequately, but it is a start;


Conference resolves


1. For the NUS UK Women's Campaign to provide financial support to the NUS-USI Women's Campaign of up to £1,000 (or more if requested by the NUS-USI Women's Officer);
2. For the NUS UK Women's Officer to maintain regular contact and ensure the NUS-USI Women's Officer is invited to flagship events such as NUS Women in Leadership Conference, NUS Women's Conference etc.

Zone: Society and Citizenship

Motion 202: Scrap the Two Child Tax Credit and Rape Clause!

Conference notes

1. The child tax credit is a benefit to help with the cost of raising a child. Parents and carers might be able to get them if their children are under 16 or, if they are in eligible training, up to the age of 20.
 2. The policy to cap child tax credit was announced in 2015 by then-Chancellor George Osborne.
 3. The government said it introduced the limit, for a claimant's first two children, because it wanted "people on benefits to make the same choices as those supporting themselves solely through work".
 4. Exemptions were announced for those adopting children, those involved in kinship care and for multiple births, as well as those who had a child conceived "as a result of a sexual act which you didn't or couldn't
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consent to" or "at a time when you were in an abusive relationship, under ongoing control or coercion by the other parent of the child". This is the 'rape clause'.

5. Those seeking to claim the exemption for rape must fill in additional paperwork and be assessed by what the government has described in a consultation as a "professional third party", which could include health workers, police, social workers or rape charities.
6. A woman cannot claim this exemption if she lives with the other parent of the child.
7. The cap came into force in April 2017.
8. The new work and pensions secretary, Esther McVey, is facing renewed calls to urgently review the "rape clause" in child tax credits.
9. MPs including Alison Thewliss, Nicola Sturgeon and Kezia Dugdale have publicly spoken out against the "rape clause".

Conference believes


1. The NUS Women's Campaign should publicly oppose the Two Child Tax Credit.
2. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is effectively forcing survivors to disclose and to endure further trauma by making them "prove" they have been raped.
3. Calling on survivors to "prove" that they have been raped in order to receive social security payments is morally questionable (to say the least).
4. The "rape clause" fails to take into account that the vast majority of survivors do not disclose to the police - roughly 82 per cent of all rapes go unreported.
5. A woman cannot claim this "exemption" if she lives with the other parent of the child, this fails to take into account that many women are trapped in abusive relationships.
6. The policy is also intrinsically classist and pushes families into further poverty.


Conference resolves

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to issue a public statement against the Two Child Tax Credit.
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to launch a campaign/ produce information packs for students on the two-child tax credit and rape clause: what it is and why we should campaign to repeal it.
3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to work with charities such as Women's Aid to put pressure on the Department for Work and Pensions to repeal the "rape clause".

Motion 203: #TimeUpTheresa: Domestic Violence Bill

Conference notes

1. On 17th February 2017, Theresa May announced plans for a new programme of work leading towards bringing forward a Domestic Violence and Abuse Act.
 2. At first glance, the Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill appears to be a win for survivors, but feminist groups such as Sisters Uncut have denounced the Bill as "a dangerous distraction that will criminalise survivors while taking attention away from the devastating funding cuts to domestic violence services nationwide".
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3. The Bill is still currently under consultation in parliament, but Theresa May has made it clear that she intends to use the Bill to increase police powers over domestic violence and toughen sentences.
 4. In a statement to the press, May insisted that she intends to deliver a system that “increases convictions”.

Conference believes

1. Evidence suggests that when police are given increased power to tackle domestic violence it leads to a pro-arrest environment in which everyone involved will be more likely to be arrested - including the survivor in question.
2. Mandatory arrest policies — which require police to make an arrest when they respond to domestic violence calls — have often led to arbitrary arrests of survivors of domestic violence, rather than their abusers, in many cases.
3. Indeed, almost 57% of women in prison have experienced domestic abuse. Thus, criminalising survivors is extremely dangerous – as shown in recent reports about the death of Katrina O’Hara who was wrongly investigated by the police instead of her violent partner, who later murdered her.
4. Instead of using this opportunity to fund housing and support services for domestic violence survivors to escape abuse, the government is focusing almost entirely on sentencing.
5. It is imperative that the government’s Domestic Violence and Abuse Act funds local domestic violence charities and shelters.


Conference resolves


1. For the NUS Women’s Campaign work with local groups/ charities like Imkaan to raise funds for domestic violence charities and shelters.
2. For the NUS Women’s Campaign to ensure that survivor support is made a priority in the Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill (and lobby relevant MPs to table amendments accordingly).
3. For the NUS Women’s Campaign to produce guidance on what effective support mechanism for survivors look like.

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

Motion 301: Women and Austerity

Conference notes


1. Women bear the brunt of austerity.
 2. For example, the former shadow equalities minister, Sarah Champion, published analysis showing that 86% of the burden of austerity since 2010 has fallen on women.
 3. In total, the analysis also estimated that cuts have cost women a total of £79bn since 2010 and £13bn for men.
 4. Women’s Aid groups tackling domestic violence across the UK are fighting to keep women’s centres open due to funding cuts.
 5. Since 2010, at least 34 specialist refuge centres have been forced to close.
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6. A third of all referrals to refuges are turned away - that is approximately 155 women per day being turned away due to lack of space from underfunding.
 7. The local government central grant has been halved between 2010 and 2015 and is planned to be cut by a further 30% by 2020 thereby reducing the amount of money councils receive.
 8. Local councils decide how the limited money is used and domestic violence services and refuges are being asked to take on more work with less people, less resources and less money.

Conference believes

1. One in three women will be turned away from refuges. This means that women cannot flee abusive relationships and are stuck in a vicious cycle of abuse - thereby endangering their lives.
2. For example, two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a former or current partner.
3. Domestic violence services are funded on short term basis - services are forced to spending time and energy fighting for their survival as they are under the constant threat of closure;
4. Lack of funds mean that small and specialist charities aren't awarded contracts and are often forced to close as a result. Others are forced to cut back on employees meaning they cannot adequately support those who want to access support;
5. This also all means that women of colour, LBT+ women, disabled women, women who are alcohol/ drug dependant, refugees, those who don't have UK Citizenship and those who don't speak English often face more barriers in accessing support and refuge.
6. For example, 4 in 5 BME women are turned away from refuges;

Conference resolves

1. To work with groups Sisters Uncut to campaign against the cuts to domestic violence services;
 2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to provide a toolkit on how to campaign locally and create links with local domestic violence charities/ shelters to keep services open
 3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to produce briefings on how to lobby councils to ensure they fully meet the needs of all survivors;
 4. For the NUS Women's Campaign to lobby the government to protect funding for domestic violence services at a national level;
 5. For the Women's Campaign to organise a Day of Action against cuts to local domestic violence services;
 6. For the NUS Women's Campaign to work with local domestic violence services to create partnerships between students' unions and local domestic violence refuges and shelters.
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Policy Lapse

Motion 202: Free Education


Conference believes


1. "Feminist education - the feminist classroom - is and should be a place where there is a sense of struggle, where there is visible acknowledgement of the union of theory and practice, where we work together as teachers and students to overcome the estrangement and alienation that have become so much the norm in the contemporary university." - Bell Hooks
2. Education is a public good and should be free for everyone to access.
3. An educated society is one which holds more progressive views on Liberation issues.
4. At the current tuition fees rate, it will take women a lot longer to pay back their debt due to the gender pay gap.
5. Investing in free education would not only offer opportunities for women it would play a central role in reviving the economy now and in promoting longer-term prosperity and growth for the future.
6. Free education would pay for itself. Research shows that for every £1 invested in higher education the economy expands by £2.60.
7. Free education at all levels is a necessary part of an accessible education system.
8. Free education means more than the absence of fees.
9. All students should be provided with living grants allowing them to live comfortable, and grants to allow any dependents to live comfortably.
10. This can all be funded through increased taxation on the richest in society.
11. When caring responsibilities and child-raising responsibilities more frequently fall on women, studying can be difficult enough, and financial difficulties can heavily contribute towards / force students to leave their studies.

Conference further believes

1. Free Education should be funded by progressive taxation.
2. Free Education goes beyond just the abolition of fees and the provision of living grants for home students, it has to extend the same rights to international students.
3. Free Education has to be not just economically free, but also liberated.
4. The fight for a liberated curriculum, including but not limited to, fighting against a whitewashed and male-dominated curriculum, is integral to the fight for free education.
5. This fight is part of the larger struggle for the democratic university and against the privatisation and marketisation of education.
6. The democratic university should be run by workers, students and the wider community rather than unaccountable managers.
7. We can only achieve a truly liberated education system when it is democratically organised.

Conference resolves

1. Oppose and campaign against all methods of charging students for education – including tuition fees and a 'graduate tax', which is nothing less than a euphemism for 'student debt'.
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2. To produce a briefing on the impact free education will have on women
 3. To oppose 24 plus loans in Further Education
 4. To oppose moves to market driven Further Education framework.
 5. The NUS Women's Campaign, and the NUS Women's Officer, should campaign for free education, combined with living grants.
 6. The NUS Women's Campaign should widely publicise its belief in free education and living grants and explain widely why free education is a feminist issue.


Motion 203: Research sexism in educational environments

Conference believes

1. Studies of sexism in educational environments have focused on sexism in academia and the experiences of women academics and early career researchers. Recently the student movement has done amazing work on sexism on campus by focusing on tackling lad culture and rape culture in universities but without a particular focus on key teaching and learning environments.
2. There is a false assumption that with the access of women into Higher Education and with the majority of students being women that the classrooms or labs are not spaces where sexism is felt. Women are always asked to justify their claims of feeling uncomfortable or to 'prove' that a space is hostile. It is widely assumed that learning spaces can no longer be male dominated and that women can't feel excluded given that they might outnumber men in the room. However we still hear things like 'you are good at logic for a girl', 'your handwriting is nice' said by a male lab demonstrator, we're still not feeling confident to ask questions at a research seminar, women still speak less in seminars compared to men, and still experience sexual harassment at academic conferences – this is anecdotal evidence usually shared in safe spaces. But we know that in many subjects women student numbers drop from undergraduate, to postgraduate taught to then postgraduate research level because educational spaces and academic attitudes are patriarchal and unwelcoming.
3. The NUS report on lad culture has made a breakthrough in the discourse around the sector and made progress towards fighting the denial that such a culture exists, providing a grounding for campaigning and action. A similar evidence-gathering exercise carried out on the experience of sexism specifically for teaching & learning spaces and research environments would be needed to fill a gap in the discussions and actions around sexism in academia, the progression of women scholars and discrimination against women students.

Conference resolves

1. To carry out a large-scale research project, with quantitative and qualitative elements, into women's experience of sexism in educational settings – lectures, seminars, labs and other research environments (particularly conferences for postgraduate students).
 2. To produce a report as a result of the research and hold a series of events launching it with a view to start campaigning on the issues revealed.
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3. Following consultation and events around launching the report to arrive at a set of recommendations and toolkits for action and local campaigns, building, evidencing and expanding on the women in academia work that has been happening across the country.

Motion 303: Supporting the decriminalisation of sex work

Conference believes


1. Sex work refers to escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcams, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex (on and off the street).
2. Selling sex is not illegal in the UK, but it is criminalised.
3. There are a disproportionate number of disabled people, migrants, especially undocumented/semi-documented migrants, LGBT people and single parents (vast majority of whom are women) involved in sex work¹¹.
4. The financial cost of being disabled, childcare, medical transition and hormones, racism in the workplace, the vulnerability of undocumented migrants to exploitation in other forms of work and the prejudice faced by oppressed people undoubtedly contribute to this overrepresentation.
5. Sex work is the exchange of money for labour, like any other job. It is different because it is currently criminalised and stigmatised.
6. People should be free to choose what they do with their time, labour and bodies. If they have fewer choices, our solution should be to expand their choices, not take options away through further criminalisation.
7. The right of consenting adults to engage in sexual relations is of no business to anyone but the people involved.
8. With the rise in living costs, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some women students do sex work alongside their studies.
9. Regardless of their reasons for entering into sex work, all sex workers deserve to have their rights protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. Whether or not you enjoy a job should have no bearing on the rights you deserve while you do it.

Conference further believes

1. The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex (and introduce the 'Nordic Model' on prostitution) are led by anti-choice, anti-LGBT right-wing fundamentalists, working with radical feminists.
2. This legislation is often brought forward in the name of anti-trafficking programmes – but it is primarily used to target immigrant sex workers for raids and deportations.
3. Legislation targeted at combatting poverty, universalising childcare and a living wage, social housing, accessible education funding and living grants, is more likely to ensure those who do not wish to work in the sex industry do not feel forced by economic circumstances.

¹¹ Safety First Coalition



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4. Decriminalisation would ensure that sex workers feel able to report unsafe clients or violence at work without the worry of criminal repercussions, that sex workers can work together for safety, and that those who wish to leave the sex industry are not left with criminal records as a result of their job.

Conference resolves

1. To support and campaign for the full decriminalisation of sex work.
2. To campaign against any attempt to introduce the Nordic Model into the UK.
3. To support and be led by sex worker led organisations, such as the English Collective of Prostitutes, Sex Worker Open University and SCOT-PEP.

Motion 304: Support the right to education and justice for Palestine

Conference believes

1. Palestinian students' right to education continues to suffer as a result of the illegal occupation of the West Bank and Israel's brutal siege on Gaza.

Conference resolves


1. Invite a Palestinian student as a guest speaker for next year's Women's Conference to increase awareness of how the illegal occupation of the West Bank and the siege on Gaza is adversely affecting women and their right to education.
2. Continue to boycott companies that benefit from the illegal occupation of the West Bank.
3. To re affirm our opposition of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, end the blockade on Gaza
4. Call upon the British government to demand that the siege on Gaza is lifted.


Motion 305: Disruptive Direct Action Gets the Goods!

Conference believes

1. That the role of Women's Officer is, as with all Union roles, a political role.
2. That Women's Officers are often forced into more welfare-focused work by the failure of universities and unions to properly provide welfare and support services for women students. This hinders Women's Officers from being able to focus on fighting alongside women students for better conditions.
3. That women are taking a very prominent role organising within the student movement for free education.
4. The behaviour and presentation of women in everyday life is policed by expected adherence to social norms and women are often assumed to be incapable of disruptive direct action due to their perceived need to be safe and quiet.

Conference further believes

1. Our priority as a movement is to fight our oppressions and liberate ourselves.
 2. That the role of a women's officer is not primarily about looking after women students, it is to actively fight alongside women students for better conditions.
 3. That women may partake in this fight however they see fit, including using disruptive direct action.
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4. That women have won many of the rights they can exercise today through the tactical use of disruptive direct action.
 5. That large-scale actions, such as a demonstration, can never be accessible for everyone, due to contrasting access needs.
 6. That threats to safety whilst doing a direct action come overwhelmingly from the police.
 7. That whilst direct action can never be accessible to everyone, this does not mean we should not support those who are able to carry it out.
 8. That when carrying out a large-scale direct action, such as an occupation or a demonstration, there are a myriad of ways to be involved in the action which do not require the ability to be physically present which should be promoted as important as taking part in the action itself.
 9. That the Women's Campaign should not attempt to mirror societies policing of women.
 10. That free education is a resolutely feminist demand.
 11. That unfortunately NUS currently has the opposite approach, polite chats with institution managements and with governments of whatever political colour, which among other things helps NUS "leaders" promote their careers in politics and with NGOs. This was symbolised by its betrayal of the 2010-11 student upsurge-


Conference resolves


1. That the NUS Women's Campaign should promote disruptive direct action to further its aims.
2. That the NUS Women's Campaign release a statement on the role of a Women's Officer in line with the politics of this motion.
3. To build links with the Sisters Uncut initiative and mobilise member or their action

Motion 502: End Transphobia, Biphobia and Islamophobia on Campus

Content warning: Transphobia, biphobia, Islamophobia.

Conference believes

1. NUS Women's Campaign has a duty to protect and promote the rights of those who self-define as part of the NUS Women's Campaign within NUS, on campus at University or college and in wider society.
 2. All students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, have the right to a safe environment at their University or College campus where they can learn, develop as an individual, and achieve their full potential. This safe space must include an environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and prejudice including but not limited to: homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, racism, sexism, ableism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism.
 3. Transphobia is an irrational dislike, hatred, prejudice and/or discriminatory action towards individuals who define as trans, including (but not limited to) transgender, transsexual, transvestite, and genderqueer people, and anyone who does define into the gender binary norms of society.
 4. NUS Liberation Campaigns have previously passed 'No Platform' Policies in order to protect students from individuals who preach prejudice and discrimination based on an individual's identity, and who incite hatred against an individual based upon their identity or beliefs.
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5. The NUS LGBT Campaign and the NUS Women's Campaign have previously passed policy refusing to share a platform with Julie Bindel, a journalist and author who is notorious for her transphobic publications and views, and other individuals who hold transphobic views.

Conference further believes

1. Julie Bindel is renowned for her transphobic viewpoints, which first came to light in her article *Gender Benders, Beware* (2004). Bindel has apologised for the 'tone' of this article, but has not renounced further writings which argue that trans people should be denied medical care. Moreover, she has spoken at events such as Femifest 2014 that explicitly exclude trans people.
2. Julie Bindel argued in her latest book, *'Straight Expectations'* (2014) that that bisexuality doesn't exist as a sexual identity, thus erasing bisexual individuals' identities and experiences.
3. Julie Bindel has also criticised women who wear the niqab in her article for the Daily Mail: *Why are my fellow feminists shamefully silent over the tyranny of the veil* (2013); in refusing to believe that Muslim women have made their own decision to wear the niqab she denies Muslim women agency.


Conference resolves

1. That the NUS Women's Officers and members of the NUS Women's committee shall not share a platform with Julie Bindel.
2. The NUS Women's Officers and members of the NUS Women's committee shall not offer a platform to any transphobic speaker, biphobic or Islamophobic speaker, nor shall it officially support any event that does.

Motion 506: The Black Womens Experience of Sexual Violence

Content warning: Sexual assault, sexual violence.

Conference believes

1. NUS (Lad Culture) research has revealed that one in four students (26 per cent) have suffered unwelcome sexual advances, defined as inappropriate touching and groping.
 2. NUS (Lad Culture) research has also revealed that more than a third of women students (37 per cent) said they had faced unwelcome sexual advances.
 3. NUS (Hidden Marks) Research revealed that 14 per cent of women students have experienced serious physical or sexual assault which is more than one in ten women students that have been a victim of serious physical violence.
 4. The experience of black women survivors of sexual violence differs to that of non-black women.
 5. Black women are fetishized which affects their experience of sexual violence. This positions stems from slavery where black women were stripped of their humanity and femininity.
 6. Black women face additional barriers to non-black women in reporting sexual violence due to the ever present criminalisation of black people and lack of trust of the institutionally racist police force.
 7. No NUS research has yet been formulated on the experiences of black women and sexual violence.
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Conference resolves


1. For NUS Women's campaign to work with external agencies to research the experience of sexual violence of black women and to include how this can differ to the experience of non-black women, the fetishisation and sexualisation of black women, and the complications black women face in deciding whether to report.
2. For NUS Women's campaign to collate a resource material for black women survivors of sexual violence.
3. For NUS Women's campaign (particularly the Women's officer, the Black representative on committee, and the Black Women's subcommittee) to work with NUS Black Students Officer to provide support for black women students who have experienced sexual violence and ensure resources are available for them to access and encourage unions to ensure it is available for black women on campus and within societies.
4. For NUS Women's officer and NUS Black Students' Officer to work in conjunction with each other to combat fetishisation of black women the problem, and also make it a mandatory caucus at women's conference and black students conference.


Motion 507: Affordable & Secure Housing

Conference believes

1. Huge numbers of women suffer from homelessness or insecure housing - this is bad.
2. In most boroughs housing benefit has been reduced for under 35s and cut for most people under 25 - this is bad
3. This government policy assumes that all under 25s have wealthy family who live near jobs who they feel comfortable living with. Many do not, in particular women and LGBTQ students.
4. Most students are currently unable to claim housing benefit - this is bad.
5. Even if people can claim housing benefit, they still are constantly at risk of eviction - this is bad.
6. Many people live in terrible conditions - this is bad.
7. Everyone should be entitled to secure housing in areas they want to live, in good conditions.
8. 'Affordable rent' is often interpreted to mean 80% of market rent, which is not actually affordable.

Conference resolves

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to publicise how having a right to secure housing in good conditions is an important feminist issue.
 2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to campaign for increased social housing.
 3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to support other campaigns for social housing, secure tenancies and good living conditions, such as the Focus E15 Campaign.
 4. To campaign for actually affordable and secure housing.
 5. To demand: the building of millions of council houses; repopulation of empty homes and estates; expropriation of properties left empty; taxation on second etc homes; an end to the sell off of public land; rent controls.
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6. To campaign in universities for zero rent rises; to bring rents down; to for national maximum rents. To condemn the NUS leadership for failing to take strong positions or action on these issues.

Motion 509: Supporting women on the front line

Content warning: Rape, sexual assault.


Conference believes


1. Feminism is hard, emotive and exhausting work
2. NUS's 'Hidden Marks' report found that 1 in 7 women students is a victim of sexual assault or violence
3. Local and national women's services and rape crisis centres are being decimated by cuts
4. Peripheral support services (e.g. University and College Counselling) are often the first to be cut

Conference further believes

1. Activists often do not have strong support networks.
2. Being a feminist or women's campaigner can sometimes be an isolating role.
3. Continuously campaigning for women's rights can sometimes be upsetting, mentally and physically draining and have implications on people's health.
4. Women's officers often deal with casework that involves supporting women who have experienced sexual assault and rape as well as their family, friends, course-mates and housemates.
5. The squeezing of resources and increasing waiting time on institution's and women's services mean that women students are more likely to use and rely on the support offered by women's officers and women's campaigners
6. Without the correct information and training provided to those supporting survivors in the student movement, the advice given may not be in their best interests or could be damaging.
7. Without the correct information and training provided to those supporting survivors, they can often feel overwhelmed and under-supported with negative implications for their own mental health.

Conference resolves

1. NUS Women's Campaign will develop both informal and formal support networks for women's officers across the country.
 2. Steps will be taken to ensure self-care is embedded in the work and culture of the campaign.
 3. NUS will work with sexual assault referral centres, and rape crisis centres to source and provide training, information and advice for officers supporting survivors of sexual assault and rape
 4. The Women's Campaign will promote the NUS activist mental health guides to the membership.
 5. NUS will provide information and advice around best practice for policies and procedures that improve the support that is available to staff and volunteers e.g. access to support services, TOIL, mental health policies, sick leave/pay, management mental health training and bullying policies.
 6. NUS will work to help full time women's officers gain access to counselling services by supporting the development of links between unions geographically close, so that officers in one union can use the
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counselling services of nearby unions (as they are in a unique position working full time supporting women students often without access to counselling or support networks).

Motion 511: Contracted staff in students' unions (Security, builders, maintenance) as well as university staff must undergo zero tolerance to harassment training

Conference believes

1. There needs to be emphasis against all kinds of discrimination: Sexism, Transphobia, Racism, Homophobia.
2. Banter has been used by some, as an excuse in academic, social and communal areas on campuses, and within students' unions; it has also been used to bully, harass, degrade and shame Women.

Conference resolves


1. Annual training to ensure knowledge of working practice and procedures in students' unions are up to date regarding these issues.
2. NUS to promote and support students' unions in ensuring, that all staff in contact with students, facilitate a safe learning and social environment in education.

Motion 512: Dear White Gay Men: Stop Appropriating Black Women

Conference believes

1. The appropriation of Black women by white gay men is prevalent within the LGBT scene and community.
2. This may be manifested in the emulation of the mannerisms, language (particularly AAVE- African American Vernacular English) and phrases that can be attributed to Black women. White gay men may often assert that they are "strong black women" or have an "inner black woman".
3. White gay men are the dominant demographic within the LGBT community, and they benefit from both white privilege and male privilege.
4. The appropriation of Black women by white gay men has been written about extensively. This quote is taken from Sierra Mannie's TIME piece entitled: "Dear white gays, stop stealing Black Female culture":

"You are not a black woman, and you do not get to claim either blackness or womanhood. There is a clear line between appreciation and appropriation. I need some of you to cut it the hell out. Maybe, for some of you, it's a presumed mutual appreciation for Beyoncé and weaves that has you thinking that I'm going to be amused by you approaching me in your best "Shanequa from around the way" voice. I don't know. What I do know is that I don't care how well you can quote Madea, who told you that your booty was getting bigger than hers, how cute you think it is to call yourself a strong black woman, who taught you to twerk, how funny you think it is to call yourself Quita or Keisha or for which black male you've been bottoming — you are not a black woman, and you do not get to claim either blackness or womanhood. It is not yours. It is not for you."






Conference further believes

1. This type of appropriation is unacceptable and must be addressed.
2. Low numbers of Black LGBT women delegates attend NUS LGBT conference. This can be attributed to many factors, one of which may be the prevalent appropriation by white gay men, which may mean that delegates do not feel comfortable or safe attending conference.

Conference resolves

1. To work to eradicate the appropriation of black women by white gay men.
 2. To work in conjunction with NUS LGBT campaign to raise awareness of the issue, to call it out as unacceptable behaviour and, where appropriate, to educate those who perpetuate this behaviour.
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Policy Passed at Women's Conference 2019

100 Society and Citizenship

Motion 101: Solidarity with Rohingya Refugees


Women's Conference Believes

1. The violence faced by the Rohingya community, indigenous to the Rakhine state, has recently bombarded the western media. These human rights abuses perpetrated by the Burmese state has been documented for decades.
2. The Burmese military unleashed unprecedented levels of violence against the Rohingya community in 2012, where more than 120,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh in order to escape ethnic cleansing.
3. Violence further escalated in 2017 and there are now more than one million Rohingya refugees in the world's largest refugee camp, situated in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh.
4. Research carried out by UK based, international human rights organisation Restless Beings, has highlighted the Rohingya people's experiences of violence and suppression by the Burmese state since as early as the 1990s.
5. The Rohingya community have been denied access to education, work or any aspects of their livelihood. The United Nation has deemed the act against the Rohingya Community as a violation of human rights, as these people have now been left stateless.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. The systematic violence perpetrated against the Rohingya people has heavily affected women of the community.
2. An estimated population of 16,000 women of the Rohingya community have endured sexual violence, many left pregnant as a result.
3. The Bangladeshi government currently plan to forcibly remove 103,000 Rohingya to Bhasan Char, a remote island three hours away from Bangladesh despite the island having flooded numerous times in the last few years. The island is not fit for human population and was inhabitable up until recently. The Bangladeshi government is inevitably sending the Rohingya people to their deaths.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. For the Women's Campaign to stand in solidarity with the Rohingya Refugees and publicly condemn the Burmese government for acting against humanity, and leaving the community stateless.
 2. For the Women's Campaign to support Restless Beings in their work to rehabilitate and facilitate the community; specifically, through the organisation's Women Support Centers, which aim to provide medical and emotional support to survivors of sexual violence.
 3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to stand in solidarity against the relocation of the Rohingya Refugees to Bhasan Char.
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Motion 102: For a labour movement that fights for trans women


Women's Conference Believes

1. Trade union membership is at its lowest level since the 1940s.
2. Many students are workers, either in part time jobs or employed through their institutions as part of their course such as in the case of postgraduate students. Many more will be trade unionists once they leave education.
3. Trade unions give workers a channel through which to organise collectively to defend ourselves against employers as well as fight for positive gains.
4. Women are more likely to be members of trade unions than men.
5. Being trans, non-binary and/or gender nonconforming places workers in a precarious situation in the workplace, facing harassment and abuse from colleagues, employers and members of the public. This is especially true for those that experience transmisogyny.
6. Trans women and non-binary and gender nonconforming people perceived as women are more likely to work in precarious, lower paid sectors which are traditionally under organised by trade unions.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. The British Labour movement, both in the Labour Party and in trade unions, has a significant minority current of transphobic feminism.
2. This current has gained traction partly because many prominent transphobic feminists in the Labour movement gained the respect of some on the left for arguing in favour of class struggle-feminist perspectives during previous decades' debates. This does not mean they are correct, but it does mean they have been able to carry a periphery of trade unionists and activists with them due to this legitimacy.
3. We should aim to unite all sections of the working class regardless of identity, this is only possible if those with marginalised identities feel safe and secure in their involvement in the Labour movement.
4. Trans women workers need trade unions that fight to win higher pay, secure contracts and better working conditions.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. To support and advocate for campaigns to repeal all anti trade union laws, such as the Free Our Unions campaign initiated by Lambeth Unison and the Clarion magazine.
 2. To work with unions such as UCU and Unison that are active on campus to support their workplace struggles and advocate trade union struggle as a key tool for liberation.
 3. To work with trade unions, especially their women's, LGBT+ and trans sections to advocate for unions that are a secure place for all members of the organised Labour movement regardless of gender identity.
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Motion 103: Kashmir Solidarity

Women's Conference Believes


1. There is a need to highlight and raise awareness of the human rights abuses are being carried out by the occupying forces of India and Pakistan in the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. This includes the origins and history of the conflict.
2. Many of the human rights abuses Kashmiri people are facing disproportionately impact women, as thoroughly documented by UN, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and more.
3. By organising campaigns, fundraising and lobbying relevant bodies to uphold international human rights law, the student movement can contribute to the security of a positive settlement for the Kashmiri people.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to release a statement calling on the Government to take all steps possible to promote meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan.
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to support the right of the people of Kashmir to determine their own future.
3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to amplify the voices of human rights activists and international humanitarian/developmental organisations working with respect to and interest of self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

Motion 104: No women in men's prisons, and an end to prisons once and for all

Women's Conference Believes

1. The picture for women in prison on paper alone establishes there are severe problems with the justice system in the UK:
 - a) 47% of prisoners re-offend within one year.
 - b) 53% of women in prison are survivors of sexual violence.
 - c) 49% of women in prison have depression or anxiety.
 - d) 67% of women in prison for killing somebody close to them were abused by that person.
 - e) 46% of women in prison reported attempting suicide at some point in their lives.
 - f) 66% of women in prison have dependent children under 18.
 - g) In the last decade the women's prison population has risen by 33%
 - g.i) Two thirds being in prison for non-violent offences.
 2. Patterns of women's incarceration (and all incarceration) are exacerbated by multiple axes of oppression. Migrant women, working class women, disabled women, women of colour (especially black women), LGB women, trans women and sex workers are disproportionately impacted.
 3. The issue of trans women in women's prisons has become a lightning rod topic in the media. Rather than looking at the high suicide rate of trans women in both women's and men's prisons, disproportionate emphasis has been put on trans women's alleged unique danger to other women inmates.
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4. There have been a number of high profile cases of trans women dying by suicide while in prison. These include the deaths of Vicky Thompson, Joanne Latham, Jenny Swift and Jade Eatough.
 5. In March 2019, the MoJ opened a segregated section for trans women prisoners in HMP Downview, a women's prison.

Women's Conference Further Believes


1. Prisons will never deliver justice for women who are imprisoned or women who are victims of crime. Too few women see perpetrators of crime against them ever imprisoned, and prison does not help those who have been incarcerated enact justice with is restorative.
2. The ruling class determine what warrants incarceration; prisons do not work in our interests.
3. Prison is about punishment, not reformation or justice.
4. Prison is a system of brutality that attacks and takes advantage of the already vulnerable for profit.
5. Austerity and cuts to legal aid will mean the incarceration of more people.
6. Immigration, sex work and drug possession are key areas where people are incarcerated for crimes which pose no threat to the public.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. To join the global movement for the abolition of prisons.
2. To campaign for the immediate release of all IPP prisoners who have served their terms.
3. To campaign for the expansion of the prison estate to be halted.
4. To continue to campaign for increased funding for social security, mental health services, affordable housing.
5. To support the NUS Trans Campaign in:
 - a) Opposing the segregation of trans women within women's prisons without due cause.
 - b) Opposing the placement of trans women in men's prisons.
 - c) Ensuring that hormone prescription and monitoring is part of contracts with prison primary care providers, including bridging prescriptions if needed.
6. To emphasize community and transformative justice as a replacement for state incarceration.
7. To support letter writing initiatives to incarcerated people.

Motion 105: Extending and defending NUS Women's Campaign work on the GRA and tackling transmisogyny

Women's Conference Believes

1. Trans women are typically woman who have been assigned male at birth.
 2. Transmisogyny is the specific form of oppression which affects trans women and transfeminine non-binary people. It maps tropes of male violence and toxic masculinity onto trans women, positions trans women as deceitful (trying to "trick" presumably straight men into having sex with them) and positions trans womanhood and transfemininity as inherently degrading among other things.
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3. The Gender Recognition Act 2004 is the piece of legislation that allows trans people to exchange their birth certificate for a new one with the correct name and gender. The requirement for this is a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, a panel scrutinising whether you're "trans enough" and paying over £200 for the privilege of doing so. There is no legal non-binary recognition in the UK, and access to the provisions of the GRA are restricted to those 18 and over.
 4. "Self-definition/self-ID" is the process by which most organisations gatekeep who and who isn't allowed into spaces that are exclusively women's, LGBT+, disabled etc. Any system which doesn't rely on checking gendered ID, chromosomes or external genitalia is largely operated on the basis of self-definition in the case of women for example.
 5. The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against trans people. Those who have "undergone gender reassignment" should be treated for almost all intents and purposes as their stated gender. As such, trans women can protest discrimination that they experience as women as well as as trans people. There are a small number of exemptions to trans women being treated like cis women in the EA2010, most relating to women's only services. In the case of women's shelters, there is no organisation which operates a blanket ban on trans women.
 6. There has been a wave of transmisogyny in the UK that has coalesced around proposed reforms to the GRA. These reforms would implement self-definition for the GRA process, as in line with (Republic of) Ireland, Malta, Argentina and Portugal. This wave of transmisogyny has not just questioned self-definition, but also trans women's legitimacy as women and their place in women's spaces and organising.
 7. The NUS LGBT+, NUS Trans and NUS Women's Campaigns have mobilised students and students' unions to respond to the GRA consultation.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. We stand in unwavering solidarity with trans women.
- 2 Trans women are women, but that is not enough for cis allies in the women's movement to say.
3. Allies to trans women must be equipped to advocate for trans women around the GRA and beyond, when the voices of trans women in the argument are intrinsically seen as male violence.
4. The GRA, as it is, is exclusionary and needs to be reformed.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. To lobby the government and Parliament to introduce and pass a reformed GRA, with provision for self-definition, those under the age of 18 and non-binary people. This process should be low cost, in line with changing other forms of government issues identification.
2. To work with the NUS Trans Campaign to produce political education around fighting transmisogynistic arguments and rhetoric.

Motion 106: Fighting for Climate Justice and Preventing Climate Crisis

Women's Conference Believes




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1. Climate scientists have warned there are only 12 years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, in order to limit climate catastrophe.
 2. Beyond this temperature change, even half a degree increase in temperature will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people across the world
 3. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released a landmark report declaring that 'urgent and unprecedented changes are needed' to reach the target, which they say is affordable and feasible.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. It has long since been recognised that people living in the Global South will be hit hardest, and first, by the ongoing effects of climate change and ultimate climate catastrophe.
2. Rapidly rising sea levels and global temperatures will increase the occurrence of natural disasters, and ultimately the disappearance of currently inhabited lands.
3. Due to the effects of climate change, we are expected to see further increases in levels of displacement, and an increase in climate refugees.
4. In order to reach the targets laid out in the IPCC's recent report and avoid climate crisis, our climate justice campaigns must go much further than individual lifestyle changes: these campaigns no longer meet the urgency or scale our current situation demands.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. For NUS Women's Campaign to support and take part in national and international climate justice actions.
 2. For NUS Women's Campaign to support climate justice organisations and groups with strong liberation politics, to lobby the UK government, international government and global corporations to commit to meaningful actions in order to prevent climate crisis.
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200 Welfare and Student Rights


Motion 201: Supporting Student Parents and Carers

Women's Conference Believes

1. Studies have shown that student parents are "at risk groups" in terms of student retention.
2. Time-sensitive commitments in relation to caring responsibilities, such as hospital appointments, make course attendance and meeting deadlines difficult for student carers.
3. Many student carers are not recognised formally, with only a fraction of carers receiving carers allowance and/or Student Finance dependent's grant.
4. Student carers face obstacles with course attendance, meeting deadlines and engagement with student life.
5. Individual institutions are not required to attain data on their student parent and/or carer population, which diminishes their visibility and ability to access resources or support.
6. Employees are entitled to 30 hours free childcare if they work over 16 hours a week. Students are not eligible for this (including PhD students). The Student Finance Childcare Grant doesn't cover 100% of costs and can take months to process, causing delayed arrangements.
7. The Student Finance Parent Learning Allowance eligibility requires proof of child benefit or tax credits in relation to the child, not pregnancy. This delayed release of funds ignores the costs incurred by student parents prior to the birth or registration of a child, such as cots or working hours lost during pregnancy.
8. A popular forum for parents in the UK (including student parents) is Mumsnet. Mumsnet has become well-known for virulent transphobia and transmisogyny on its forums, which often goes unchallenged by moderators. This is especially the case the women's rights/feminist chat boards.
9. There have been threads on Mumsnet attacking sitting NUS officers for taking pro-trans and pro-sex worker positions.
10. Trans parents and would-be parents often do not feel safe disclosing they are trans on the site.
11. Parents with transgender children are often told that if they let their children access transition-related health and social care, they are abusing/mutilating their children. They are also often directed to pseudoscientific sites where forms of conversion therapy are advanced as a solution to a trans child questioning their gender identity.
12. Conflict between trans-exclusionary contributors and trans-inclusive contributors became so intense that Mumsnet had to institute a "three-strikes" rule on breaking forum discussion guidelines.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. Carers are disproportionately likely to be women.
 2. Many student carers are not accessing the support available to them due to a lack of information. Much of the support for carers is localised, difficult to find, and discretionary.
 3. Approximately, 60 per cent of student parents have considered dropping out of their course - this rises to 65 per cent for single parents.
 4. One in ten say they feel isolated as a student parent, owing to factors such as the timing of events, lack of childcare and costs.
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5. Parents and Carers are underrepresented in Students' Union and NUS positions. Student parents and carers should be supported to participate in all aspects of student life, including engagement with the student movement.
 6. The NUS Parents and Carers Section, created by the NUS Women's Campaign, is no longer funded.
 7. Trans parents deserve safe discussion spaces in which to talk about their experiences as trans parents.
 8. Parents of trans children deserve a space in which taking a gender-affirming approach won't result in abuse and harassment on those forums. Parents also deserve to have access to clinically accurate information.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. The NUS Women's Campaign will provide guidance to Student Unions on how to ensure Student Union participation is accessible to student parents and carers.
2. The NUS Women's Campaign will lobby NUS to provide free childcare at all democratic and non-democratic events.
3. The NUS Women's Campaign will pressure the government to amend childcare policies to include student parents.
4. The NUS Women's Campaign will lobby for Student Finance to improve financial support for student parents and carers.
5. The NUS Women's Campaign will lobby for family leave policies, independent of interruption of study policies.
6. The NUS Women's Campaign to lobby institutions to collect information on how many student parents and carers there are in the UK.
7. For the NUS Women's Campaign to support the reinstatement of Sections Conference/Campaigns, in which student parents and carers were represented.
8. To work with the NUS NEC Parents and Carers representative and the NUS Trans Officer to lobby Mumsnet to strengthen their moderation practices in order to make the site a less hostile space for trans people and a space where parents of trans children can access accurate and non-sensationalist information along international guidelines.

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/a3mn9k/mumsnet-uk-mom-forum-terf-transphobia-feminism


<https://www.huckmag.com/perspectives/opinion-perspectives/mumsnet-transphobia-online/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/jun/13/mumsnet-transgender-row-feminism-tougher-forum-rules>

Motion 202: Keep perpetrators out of Students Unions!

Women's Conference Believes



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- 1) Student unions are essential for creating positive political and social change - on campus, in local communities and beyond.
 - 2) Research from the NUS Women's Campaign has uncovered and examined students' experiences of sexual misconduct on campuses, as perpetrated by both students and staff.
 - 3) Students Unions should be fully accessible to survivors of sexual and domestic abuse.
 - 4) The presence of perpetrators of sexual misconduct as sabbatical officers in student unions, is dangerous and unsafe for students wishing to engage in student union activities or access support within that space.
 - 5) NUS Women's Campaign must work towards preventing toxic and abusive behaviors such as sexual misconduct from being replicated and perpetrated inside students' unions.

Women's Conference Further Believes


- 1) The burden of removing perpetrators from activist spaces and student unions all too often falls to women's officers and feminist activists.
- 2) Student activists are expected to both support student survivors, as well as work to ensure perpetrators are held to account.
- 3) Processes of accountability for perpetrators in student union sabbatical officer positions are often unclear.
- 4) These elected positions often blur boundaries of student and staff member, and have the potential to evade normal complaints procedures.
- 5) Accountability processes relating to student sabbatical officers often contain complex legal jargon that is not accessible to many student activists.


Women's Conference Resolves

- 1) For the NUS Women's Campaign to work with student's unions and student activists, to develop guidance for students unions on improving policy, reporting procedures and accountability processes for cases of sexual misconduct when perpetrated by a sabbatical officer.
- 2) For the NUS Women's Campaign to provide guidance and support for women's officers and student activists, educating them on how to deal with perpetrators in both student union and activist spaces.
- 3) For the NUS Women's Campaign to produce materials explaining legal jargon often used in accountability processes to aid student activists with the removal of perpetrators from student unions.


Motion 203: Supporting student survivors of domestic abuse


Women's Conference Believes

1. Domestic violence kills women. On average two women a week are murdered by a male partner or ex-partner in the UK and a further three women per week kill themselves to escape abuse.
 2. Services for those fleeing domestic violence are being slashed. Since 2010 almost a quarter of the funding for council services have been cut on average – with almost half in some areas. Over a six-month period last year 1,000 people were turned away from refuges due to lack of funding.
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3. Universal Credit further exacerbates the funding difficulties for domestic violence victims and limits their ability to find safe housing.
 4. While charity funding for these essential services shows the breadth of support for such services it is not a reliable source for services that cannot be allowed to fail. Councils have billions in reserves which could be used to prevent the closure of vital life-saving services.
 5. Austerity, low pay, personal debt, lack of affordable accommodation, and privatisation of public services make it harder for victims fleeing domestic violence to escape and to rebuild their lives.
 6. Women of colour, LGBT+ women, disabled women, women who are alcohol/drug dependent, refugees, those who don't have UK Citizenship and those who don't speak English, often face more barriers in accessing support and refuge.
 7. Women's Aid's 'Nowhere to Turn' Report, released 2018, found that 2 in 3 women who approach refuges for help are now being turned away. For BME women, that figure rises to 4 in 5.
 8. Since 2010, at least 34 specialist refuge centres have been forced to close.
 9. The local government central grant was been halved between 2010 and 2015, and is planned to be cut by a further 30% by 2020 thereby reducing the amount of money councils receive.
 10. Women survivors of domestic abuse who are LGBT+ are often left out of mainstream narratives around domestic abuse.
 11. As reported by Stonewall and the Barking & Dagenham Primary Care Trust, patterns of domestic abuse can be different and more insidious for lesbian, bi, non-binary and/or trans women.
 12. For university students who are dependent on parental gifts of money etc., students can become financially dependent on their abusers. The process of estrangement is difficult and often leaves students in poverty and/or homeless.
 13. For college students who live with abusive family members while they study, they are also financially dependent on their abusers and are at a high risk of homelessness.
 14. Under the Equality Act 2010, it is legal to discriminate against trans women in the provision of single-sex services, including many women's shelters. There are campaigns to encourage more service providers to use this provision to blanket ban all trans women from these services.
- Utilising provisions to discriminate against trans women must be justified, and broadly organisations which operate women's shelters are trans-inclusive and do not operate a blanket ban on trans women.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. Domestic violence is an NUS WomCam issue because it affects students and their families
 2. The NUS has played an important role in defending and fighting for women's rights and services including domestic violence services and policies, access to contraception and abortion rights.
 3. Councils can resist. They can refuse to pass on Tory cuts. By using their reserves and borrowing powers they can sustain services while they fight for government funding for all services. Shadow chancellor John McDonnell has pledged that a Corbyn government would fund these services.
 4. Domestic Abuse services must be specialised to suit the needs of all those accessing them.
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5. Lack of funds mean that small and specialist charities aren't awarded contracts and are often forced to close as a result. Others are forced to cut back on employees meaning they cannot adequately support those who want to access support.
 6. On 17th February 2017, Theresa May announced plans for a new programme of work leading towards bringing forward a Domestic Violence and Abuse Act.
 7. Domestic violence direct-action group Sisters Uncut, have denounced the Domestic Abuse Bill as "a dangerous distraction that will criminalise survivors, while taking attention away from the devastating funding cuts to domestic violence services Nationwide.
 8. Training and provision for LGBT+ survivors of domestic violence is lacking. Generalist services often do not properly provide for women who are in additional marginalised groups. (Women of colour, LGBT+ women, disabled women etc.)
 9. The main organisation which provides support to LGBT+ survivors of domestic violence, Broken Rainbows, is often threatened by underfunding.
 10. A student finance system which makes students dependent on parental support provides more power to abusive parents, disproportionately impacting LGBT+ students.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. Every cut to domestic violence services must be opposed and that NUS WomCam can play a leading role in this.
2. We resolve to look into and research local and national services and the cuts they face.
3. We resolve to contact other union bodies, anti-cuts bodies, women's campaigns and working-class fighters to build a campaign in defense of women's services linked to the fight for decent jobs and pay, council homes and public services for all.
4. We resolve to seek to work with above bodies and supportive councilors to hold a people's budget meeting to produce a no-cuts budget which is necessary to prevent the destruction of domestic violence services and the lives they protect.
5. For NUS Women's Campaign to continue campaigning for the funding of specialist domestic violence services across the UK, and supporting DV organisations currently doing so, as part of our fight for a fully funded Domestic Violence Services sector.
6. To provide support to students who want to make their local shelters more LGBT+ inclusive.
7. To campaign for a system of student finance for HE and FE which removes the requirement to be dependent on parental support.

Motion 204: Disabled Women and Gender Based Violence

Women's Conference Believes

1. Disabled women face far higher rates of gender-based violence, with up to 70% of people with learning difficulties experiencing it in their lifetimes.
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2. GBV towards disabled women can look very different to non-disabled women, for example, they are far more likely to experience financial abuse (especially with single household social security payments) or it can present as the withdrawal of care or mobility aides.
 3. At the same time, it is harder for a disabled woman to leave an abusive relationship due to factors such as inaccessible shelters and services, the abuser often being the person with major caring responsibilities so can withdraw care, control mobility etc., and disablist views regarding disabled women, sex and mental competency.

Women's Conference Further Believes


1. There is a clear lack of understanding with how gender-based violence affects disabled women, and how and why it is hard for disabled women to leave situations of gender-based violence. This must be addressed in the form of education and training to service providers and frontline staff.
2. Whilst disability specialist services should exist, training and provisions should be made available at all services and shelters so that disabled women aren't segregated from their non-disabled peers.
3. Our social security system and legal system should not be a cause of and perpetuation of gender based violence, and this is class, disability and feminist issue.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. To integrate information and demands regarding disabled women and gender based violence into other campaigns and education that the Women's Campaign carries out, and to work with the DSC in order to do this.
2. To continue to campaign for an end to Universal Credit and Welfare Reform that traps women in potentially abusive relationships.
3. To campaign for information provided by student's unions to be in a range of accessible formats so that disabled women can better access them.
4. To campaign to reverse the cuts to legal aid.

Motion 205: #MeTooOnCampus

Women's Conference Believes

1. The recent hashtag #MeTooOnCampus, primarily led by black women student survivors studying at Leicester University, uncovered and shared many student experiences of sexual harassment and assault in their time at university.
 2. NUS Women's Campaign have a longstanding commitment to tackling sexual harassment and assault across Further and Higher Education in the UK.
 3. In 2010, NUS Women's Campaign undertook the first extensive piece of research into UK students' experiences of sexual misconduct. The Hidden Marks Report found;
 - 1 in 7 women students in the UK experienced serious sexual assault or serious physical violence while at university or college.
 - In 60% of cases of sexual assault or stalking, the perpetrator was also a student.
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- Only 4% of women students who had been seriously sexually assaulted reported it to their institution.
 - Only 10% of women students who had been seriously sexually assaulted have reported it to the police.
4. This year, new research from sexual health and wellbeing charity Brook reiterated the endemic nature of sexual harassment and assault in UK universities, as well as woefully low rates of reporting.
- A quarter of women (26%) were sent unwanted sexually explicit messages, but only 3% reported it
 - Nearly half of women (49%) said they were inappropriately touched, but only 5% reported it
 - Only a quarter of students (25%) who were forced into having sex went on to report it.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. The #MeToo hashtag was originally created by Tarana Burke though eventually co-opted by predominantly rich white women.
2. Historically, black women and women of multiple marginalised identities have not been afforded the same belief or support when they speak out about or report instances of sexual violence.
3. In our conversations and work to tackle sexual misconduct on campuses, we must acknowledge the truth of what Tarana Burke says: "It's painful to see people preference the pain of other people over ours and not give any credence to the layers of trauma that happen in our community, particularly around sexual violence."
4. We must work to understand the differences in who is afforded victimhood while also refraining from pathologising or criminalizing communities of colour.
5. Experiencing sexual assault whilst in full-time education can create additional obstacles for many survivors of color such as difficulties in accessing culturally competent counselling, resources and support within institutions of further and higher education.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. For the Women's Campaign to support universities and SUs in ensuring their anti-harassment campaigns are making a concerted effort to reach marginalised groups.
2. For the Women's Campaign to continue working with the NUS VP Welfare to provide culturally competent counselling and survivor support services in all HE and FE institutions.
3. For the Women's Campaign to provide political education and resources on how to support black women and other women of multiple marginalised identities who have experienced sexual violence, as well as clear explanations of why they may not be given that support in the first place.
4. For the Women's Campaign to link together anti-harassment campaigns on different campuses and provide support to the activists within them, ensuring that the burden does not fall solely on black women.

Motion 206: Housing is a Feminist Issue

Women's Conference Believes

1. That across the country, rent for student housing are rising at alarming rates.
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2. In 2018-19, the national average weekly rent in university halls was £147 – a 5% increase from the year before, and a 31% increase from 2012. Seven years ago, rents on average cost 58% of the maximum financial support offered by the government; that statistic now stands at over 73%.
 3. There have been a number of coordinated student groups fighting for affordable housing, most recently, a call for rent strikes across the country on April 6th by groups from UCL, Cambridge and SOAS.

Women's Conference Further Believes


1. Housing is a feminist issue. Women students are disproportionately impacted by higher rents as they are more likely to have lower incomes, dependents or be student carers.
2. That students incur a great deal of debt if they enter Higher Education and that the burden of rising rents exacerbates the national mental health crisis as students are forced to work longer hours outside of study.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to support student movements for affordable housing: including rent strikes, rallies and occupations.
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to provide resources and political education on why affordable housing is a feminist issue
3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to create and disseminate guidance and a legal briefing, alongside the VP Welfare on how to conduct activism around rent and student housing.
4. To support groups like ACORN and other unions fighting against increased powers for landlords, who often exploit students who are unaware of their legal rights.

Motion 207: Feminist LGBT+ Approaches to Reproductive Justice

Women's Conference Believes

1. In NUS Women's Campaign policy, there is currently no recognition of how reproductive justice relates to the experiences of lesbians, bi women, trans women and non-binary women.
 2. According to a Public Health England Report, there is a "statistically significant higher rate of pregnancy in adolescent lesbians and bisexual women. This was particularly found in bisexual adolescents where the rate was twice that found in the heterosexual adolescent cohorts."
 3. Lesbian and bi women are also more likely to come across heteronormative assumptions in access across sexual health, maternity, and infertility treatment services.
 4. There is a postcode lottery for IVF in the UK, with your access varying on where you live. Only 13% of Clinical Commissioning Groups offer the NHS-recommend three rounds of IVF. This has an especial impact on lesbians and bi women, for whom IVF may be the first preference to have a child.
 5. Dozens of countries all over the world require that trans people ascent to sterilization in order to obtain transition-related healthcare or legal gender recognition, in contravention of the internationally recognised 2007 Yogyakarta Principles.
 6. 14 European countries were found to have violated the European Convention on Human Rights by imposing sterilization as a condition of legal gender recognition, mandating a change in their laws which many countries have not yet implemented.
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7. In addition, there is often not a thorough enough understanding about how the struggle for abortion rights affects those assigned female at birth who are not women.
 8. Medical transition for trans people can result in infertility, but gamete storage is not made available across the NHS as a blanket policy.

Women's Conference Further Believes


1. The reproductive justice framework, as formulated by WoC collective SisterSong, doesn't just focus on the right to not have children. It is about the right to survive and raise a family in safety and security. It is about the right to not be sterilized and to have the choice to not have children as well as to have children safely.
2. LGBT+ women, and all LGBT+ people should be supported to have children and not have children in the way which is best for them.
3. We should unpick cisnormative assumptions in discourse around reproductive justice. This isn't about being "politically correct", it is about ensuring that trans people have access to treatments in reproductive health and the wider reproductive justice without being alienated as a result of being trans.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. To produce a toolkit to allow women's and LGBT+ groups on campus to lobby their CCGs for increased access to IVF.
2. To stand in solidarity with trans people worldwide, against the requirement of sterilization for gender recognition and transition-related healthcare.
3. To lobby abortion rights organisations to engage in good faith with the trans community regarding implementing more inclusive language and campaigning, using NUS-USI's "Trust Us" campaign as a best practice case.
4. To campaign for gamete storage for trans people undergoing medical transition to be made available at low cost.

Motion 208: Setting a New Direction for Reclaim the Night

Women's Conference Believes

1. The Reclaim the Night (RtN) movement began in 1977 as part of the Women's Liberation Movement. These first marches were a response to police curfews for women following serial murders in Yorkshire, and a 1978 march in Soho led to arrests and police violence towards protesters.
 2. Since the revival of the Reclaim the Night movement in the early 2000s, many sponsored annual and national marches have seen feminist groups working with the police, distorting RtN into an "event" rather than a genuine disruption.
 3. The revival of the RtN movement has failed overall to account for our continually evolving understanding of gendered oppression. While it is good that RtN is understood as a "women's march", its
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surrounding narrative often fails to account for the experiences of sex workers, women of colour, and LGBTQ+ people (all of whom are disproportionately likely to face physical and sexual violence).

4. RtN events and marches couched in cisnormative language (e.g. placards reading “Viva la Vulva”) are outdated and are not fit for purpose.

Women’s Conference Further Believes


1. It is vital to apply an intersectional approach to the public harassment, and physical and sexual assault of women. For many women, their race, faith, job, sexuality or “transness” is an integral reason why they are targeted, and their experiences of misogyny cannot be separated from those aspects.
2. The next generation of Reclaim the Night organisers must centre women who are women of colour, sex workers, LGBT+ etc. in order to learn the lessons of recent years
3. The police are complicit in our oppression and perpetuate systematic physical and sexual violence towards sex workers, women of colour, and LGBTQ+ people. As such, we should be cautious about working with them for anything other than logistical reasons, or promoting/funding their work.


Women’s Conference Resolves

1. To issue guidance to women’s and feminist groups on running and collaborating Reclaim the Night events, including:
 - a) An anti-police/police-critical frame of reference
 - b) A focus on the public harassment that women of colour experience, especially black and Muslim women
 - c) Reframing RtN to understand its historic roots in responding to the deaths of sex workers, and ensuring that organisers take steps to make RtN events pro-sex worker inclusive, including by platforming sex workers to speak
 - d) That Reclaim the Night events should be women-focused, and that trans and non-binary women are welcome, valued and should be listened to in those spaces.
2. The NUS Women’s Campaign shall contact the organisers of the largest Reclaim the Night marches to outline the above concerns and lobby them to take action

Motion 209: Period Poverty

Women’s Conference Believes

1. 1 in 10 people who menstruate in the UK cannot afford sanitary products, therefore, statically this affects many students.
 2. All Universities should supply free sanitary products to prevent period poverty.
 3. The University have a duty of care.
 4. It is dehumanising for students to be forced to use products not safe for use.
 5. Chancellor Philip Hammond announced in March's spring statement that the government would fund a scheme to provide free menstrual products in secondary schools and college students in England from September this year. This follows an NHS pledge to make menstrual products available to patients on request from summer this year.
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6. We must ensure that our fight for free menstrual products does not detract us from the foremost issue of austerity, and its devastating consequences for people across society.
 7. Since 2010, the conservative government's social policies of austerity and welfare reform have resulted in a soaring rise in the use of food banks, cuts to funding of local councils and closures to domestic violence services across the UK. The catastrophic roll-out of Universal Credit continues to leave many already vulnerable claimants struggling to survive.
 8. Women are disproportionately affected by the government's austerity agenda. Former shadow equalities minister, Sarah Champion, published analysis showing that 86% of the burden of austerity since 2010 has fallen on women.

Women's Conference Further Believes


1. Universities need to recognise this is a crisis and needs to be rectified immediately.
2. Universities need to destigmatize menstruation and period poverty by hosting workshops and making it common conversation, so people feel safe seeking support.
3. Universities such as UWE, need to stop being dependent on volunteers and charities to prevent period poverty and take responsibility.
4. We need to research Universities such as; Glasgow, Edinburgh and Exeter to see their success through providing free sanitary products.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. For NUS Women's Campaign to continue to campaign for free menstrual products and menstrual education provided at all levels of education, and across wider society, so that all people who have periods are equipped with the resources, knowledge and confidence to properly manage them.
2. For NUS Women's Campaign to continue supporting Students Unions' campaign's for free menstrual product provision, and the destigmatisation of menstruation, on campuses.
3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to continue to publicly oppose and fight against the conservative government's violent austerity measures.
4. For the NUS Women's Campaign to produce materials for political education on the impact of austerity across society, its disproportionate effects on women, and how our fight for free menstrual product provision must not detract us from combatting austerity as a whole.

Motion 210: MOTION ON CAMPAIGN FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Women's Conference Believes

1. The term reproductive justice originates from 'SisterSong', an activist group comprised of women of colour in the US.
 2. The group defines reproductive justice as the "human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities".
 3. The reproductive justice framework brings to light:
 - a. the frequent exclusion of people of colour from mainstream reproductive rights movements;
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- b. the global history of coercive reproductive medical practices experienced by women of colour and disabled people (for example, the testing of the Depo Provera contraceptive jab on African and Asian women in the 1970s); and
 - c. current inequalities in access to reproductive healthcare due to cost or geographical location.
4. Current immigration policy does not allow international students who may get pregnant during their studies the ability to give birth in the UK.
 5. Pregnant international students and any dependants will normally need to leave the UK and apply for new Tier 4 entry clearance in order to return to the UK and resume their studies. If they do give birth in the UK, if they then leave they are not allowed to return with their dependents.
 6. Migrant patients may also be asked to show their passports at maternity wards before giving birth.
 7. Abortion is legally accessible in Northern Ireland only where there is a risk to the life of the pregnant person or a risk to their long-term mental or physical health.
 8. The solidarity between NUS, NUS-USI and Students Unions in support of Home to V8te campaign in 2018 and the victory in repealing the 8th Amendment in the Republic of Ireland.


As an addition to point b (reproductive framework):


9. To achieve reproductive justice, reproductive coercion needs to also be taken into account. Reproductive coercion is defined as threats, emotional manipulation, or acts of violence against a partner's reproductive health or reproductive decision-making. This is generally a collection of behaviours with the intention or effect of pressuring or coercing a partner into initiating, keeping, or terminating a pregnancy.
10. Reproductive coercion is a form of domestic violence, where behaviour concerning reproductive health is used to maintain power, control, and domination within a relationship. It is considered a serious public health issue. This reproductive control is highly correlated to unintended pregnancy.
11. The most common forms of reproductive coercion are pregnancy pressure and birth control sabotage. Reproductive coercion is not being adequately addressed in society. Promotes a disregard for human and reproductive rights. It can happen to individuals of various backgrounds, although it disproportionately impacts women.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. The Tier 4 visa implications for international students who give birth in the UK promote a disregard for the human rights and family life of migrants and current policy denies them reproductive justice.
2. The inaccessibility of safe and legal abortion in Northern Ireland is a denial of reproductive justice. Pregnant international students in Northern Ireland are in a position where they can neither give birth in the UK nor access abortion.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. That NUS Women's Campaign should commit to a reproductive justice approach across all reproductive rights work and launch a high-profile reproductive justice campaign.
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2. The NUS Women's Officer should lobby the government to reform current Tier 4 visa policy to allow international students, regardless of nationality, to be able to either give birth or access abortion services in the UK.
 3. The NUS Women's Officer should lobby the government to decriminalize abortion throughout the UK.
 4. To support the Abortion Support Network and other organisations providing support to individuals who cannot access abortion services in their local area.
 5. To continue working with specialist organisations to provide training to women's officers and student activists around the country to help them counter anti-choice groups on campus and support local abortion providers.
 6. To support the NUS-USI 'Trust Us' campaign for the decriminalization of abortion in Northern Ireland.
- As an addition to point 1:
7. The NUS Women's Campaign commits to addressing and encouraging discussions around reproductive coercion approach across all reproductive rights work and launch a high-profile campaign against reproductive coercion.
- As an addition to point 5:
8. The NUS Women's Campaign will work with specialist organisations to provide training to women's officers, university counsellors and student activists around the country to raise awareness on reproductive coercion.


Motion 211: Grant students' maternity rights now!

Women's Conference Believes

1. Education institutions are required under employment law to make maternity provisions for workers experiencing pregnancy and maternity, yet there is no legal requirement ensuring the same protections for students.
2. In spite of the Equality Act 2010, the rights of pregnant students are primarily determined at discretion of their institution(s). Consequently, pregnant students are often "squeezed out" of the education system.
3. Access to flexible working, maternity leave and breastfeeding facilities of legal entitlements held by workers. There is no reason for students should not to be equally protected.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. Pregnant students should access full reproductive justice, ranging from the right to choose to terminate a pregnancy to the right to continue a pregnancy. Neither choice should compromise their access to education.
 2. Students inability to access maternity rights, provisions and protections leaves them vulnerable to direct and indirect discrimination.
 3. According to the NUS Meet The Parents report, the majority of student parents report feeling unsupported by their institutions.
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4. Currently, any maternity or family-related leave a student takes would come out of the student-wide 'interruption of study' timeframe. This compromises students in need of additional interruption of study due to family responsibilities.
 5. Students experiencing pregnancy may require adjustments such as rest breaks or alternative seating, with 1 in 5 pregnant people developing complications which compromise physical mobility.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. The NUS Women's Campaign to work with AdvanceHE on improving the guidance materials for education institutions on the topic of student pregnancy and maternity.
2. To work with group Pregnant Then Screwed to campaign for the government to grant students full maternity rights and take a stand against maternity discrimination in education.
3. The NUS Women's Campaign to lobby education institutions in the United Kingdom to have maternity policies for students, not just employees.
4. The NUS Women's Campaign to lobby the government for students to have tangible protections against maternity discrimination and access to rights such as flexible working, leave without penalty, considerate attendance policies and breastfeeding facilities.
5. The NUS Women's Campaign will organise a protest against the exclusion of students experiencing pregnancy and maternity from education.

Motion 212: Sexual Health Awareness

Women's Conference Believes

1. One in 10 sexually active 16 to 24-year-olds, the age group that accounted for 59% of chlamydia and gonorrhoea diagnoses in England last year, said they had never used a condom
 2. In 2016, there were over 141,000 chlamydia and gonorrhoea diagnoses in people aged between 15 and 24 in England and almost 6 in 10 (59%) of all those diagnosed with an STI were among this age group.
 3. Young people aged less than 25 years experience the highest rates of STIs in the UK.
 4. 1 in 10 young people in the UK are estimated to be carriers of chlamydia, which can in many cases be symptomless - but can lead to infertility.
 5. That LGBT+ women have specific sexual health needs which are often ignored in wider discussions around sexual health, especially in LGBT+ sexual health.
 6. Risks for lesbian and bi women include but are not limited to herpes, genital warts and chlamydia. These are often transmitted by sharing sex toys without washing them and having oral sex without using a dental dam.
 7. Trans women, despite being a high-risk group for becoming HIV+ are rarely directed to specialist resources. There are only two dedicated organisations which provide trans women with dedicated sexual health support and both of them are in the south of England.
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Women's Conference Further Believes

1. Young people are subjected to extensive social and cultural norms, which influence sexual behaviour. Studies have shown that engagement in sexual risktaking behaviour is often based on a belief that peers are engaging in similar behaviour. Initiatives such as the Women and Equalities Select Committee inquiry into sexual harassment in schools consistently demonstrate the importance of education in providing young people with the skills they need to challenge expectations related to gender and sexuality.
2. On Tinder, half of its users were aged 18-24, and were based at university.
3. Students often move from their hometown for education and are new to the city/ town they are in.
4. LGBT+ women deserve quality sexual health services and resources.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. For NUS Women's Campaign to lobby Students' Unions to reduce the stigma around sexual health and create an open dialogue with their students.
2. For NUS Women's Campaign to encourage and incentivise Students' Unions to launch campaigns surrounding sexual health and its importance.
3. For NUS Women's Campaign to campaign for all Students' Unions to provide information about local sexual health services on their websites, making it easier for students to access and engage with.
4. To increase access to quality sexual healthcare in students' unions, including by increasing access to dental dams and LGBT+ women's sexual health guidance.
5. To work with the NUS LGBT+ Campaign on improving access to quality sexual healthcare for LGBT+ people.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/campaign-to-protect-young-people-from-stis-by-using-condoms>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/campaign-to-protect-young-people-from-stis-by-using-condoms>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sexually-transmitted-infections-stis-annual-data-tables>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/love-sex/6-things-you-need-to-know-about-sex-at-university-10505929.html>

Adolescent Susceptibility to Peer Influence in Sexual Situations (Journal of Adolescent Health, 2016) [www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(15\)00671-0/abstract?cc=y](http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(15)00671-0/abstract?cc=y)

Sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools inquiry (Women and Equalities Select Committee, 2016)

www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/womenand-equalities-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry1/

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/love-sex/6-things-you-need-to-know-about-sex-at-university-10505929.html>





300 Education

Motion 301: Political Education for All!

Women's Conference Believes

1. Political education is essential to sustaining and extending our feminist movement.
2. Women's Officers and feminist activists across the country are leading groundbreaking campaigns on their campuses and engaging with their institutions on a bureaucratic level, all while balancing their studies and personal lives.
3. Feminist spaces can be alienating to those who have not yet reached a certain level of political education but who are still keen to be involved.
4. Officers and activists often have limited capacity to provide such education to these students.
5. NUS Women's Campaign has a responsibility to support and assist officers and activists with educating students in order to attain a collective feminist consciousness.

Women's Conference Further Believes


1. Important political education has been started this year through the Women's Campaign's activist training days on Consent and Universal Credit, as well as the launch of the WomCam podcast and reading group.
2. The Women's Officer should educate students on their specific campaign priorities, as well as key issues facing our current women's movement.
3. Further, it is vital that the Women's Campaign ensures that there are spaces created for nuanced discussion on complex feminist topics.


Women's Conference Resolves

1. For NUS Women's Campaign to continue political education endeavors such as monthly podcasts and reading groups.
2. For there to be regional feminist political education days held for students in Further and Higher Education on a range of key and relevant issues.
3. For NUS Women's Campaign to host skill sharing sessions covering fundamental organising techniques for carrying out campaigns, including how to successfully lead workshops and facilitate panels or activist meetings.
4. To update the Women's Officers and FemSoc handbooks.
5. To connect with the other liberation campaigns to ensure that all resources and initiatives take into consideration the multi-faceted experiences of women in Further and Higher Education.

Motion 302: Stand with academic staff against precarious contracts

Women's Conference Believes

1. Universities and educational institutions employ staff on precarious contracts. UCU's 2016 report on precarious work in higher education found that 54% of all academic staff and 49% of all academic
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teaching staff are on insecure contracts. (footnote reference:

https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/7995/Precarious-work-in-higher-education-a-snapshot-of-insecure-contracts-and-institutional-attitudes-Apr-16/pdf/ucu_precariouscontract_hereport_apr16.pdf)

2. Most precarious workers in universities are women, due to the sexual division of Labour and the burden of care that often falls on women. This hinders the career progression and retention of women and contributes to the gender pay gap.

Women's Conference Further Believes


1. Universities and colleges make statements about improving the world whilst ignoring the inequalities they entrench by employing staff members on insecure and precarious contracts.
2. HE and FE institutions must be in service of its students and workers, rather than in service of capital and the perpetuation of systematic oppression.
3. The Women's Campaign must stand with all women and non-binary people, including early career academics who are often forced to choose between caring responsibilities and career progression.
4. We saw in the 2018 UCU strike over cuts to pensions that students and workers are strongest in resisting the infringement of employee rights by senior management when we work together.


Women's Conference Resolves

5. To support grassroots movements across campuses resisting precarious contracts and lack of access to employee benefits due to short-term contracts.
6. To work with the NUS HE and PG zones to raise awareness about the gendered effects of marketisation and provide resources for students who want to work with UCU and other unions fighting against casualisation, insecure contracts and staff cuts.

Motion 303: Challenging TERF/transmisogynistic ideology on campus and in the academy

Women's Conference Believes

1. "TERF" is an acronym that stands for "trans-exclusionary radical feminism/feminist". It refers to those whose interpretation of radical feminist theory leads them to believe that trans women are men, specifically they are especially misogynistic and violent men, that they are a danger to women and that they should be chased out of women's spaces.
 2. "TERFism" isn't the only type of transphobic/transmisogynistic ideology. Hatred of trans women can be found in liberal feminism, Marxist feminism and a variety of right-wing ideologies. Often these are homogenised all under the label "TERF", but this is intellectually lazy.
 3. TERFs are however the most organised and most publicized groups of people who are campaigning for a roll back in trans rights, including access to gender recognition, anti-discrimination legislation and transition related healthcare.
 4. While TERFs and ideology resulting from TERFism are found all over the world, they have a particular root in the UK. This is obviously very dangerous for trans women and young trans people.
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5. There is a special academic brand of TERF in the UK that is being granted almost all the space in public discussions to talk about transness in the Academy. Articles platforming/written by TERF academics are rarely followed up with trans student and staff experiences of harassment on campus.
 6. Public meetings intended to rally support for the increased scrutiny on trans women and to lobby to institute discrimination against trans women are widespread, some very close to university campuses.

Women's Conference Further Believes


1. "TERF" is not a slur (obviously). It is a descriptor (often applied too broadly) that often has negative connotations because being trans-exclusionary is widely seen to be bad. As such, "TERF" is in the same category of descriptors as racist, sexist etc. Claiming that "TERF is a slur" is often a red flag.
2. Beyond the delegitimisation of trans people, there are specific public policy goals that TERF organisations have rallied around, especially in relation trans women and young trans women. Many TERFs want to institute further legal discrimination, making it possible to bar trans women from women's spaces without justification. In addition, they are attacking the right of young trans people to transition.
3. The impact of a lecturer or a senior member of staff in a department using their position in your university community to speak for discrimination against trans people cannot be underestimated as a source of stress and worry. We all too often see trans people used as a thought experiment alone in the fields of philosophy, law etc. as opposed to being treated as active members of the community


Women's Conference Resolves

1. To commend and publicise the "How to spot TERF ideology" work of the Cambridge University SU Women's Campaign.
2. To provide support to sabbs and grassroots activists who want to challenge trans-exclusionary academics on their campuses.
3. To support campaigns to get TERF organising events off campuses, through visible and vocal protest and opposition (lead by cis women) and political education.

Motion 304: University complaints procedures are broken

Women's Conference Believes

1. Complaints are often the first formal step to challenging injustice, misconduct or failure of duty. Victims can seldom escalate their concerns to regulating bodies or courts without first pursuing redress through complaints procedures.
 2. Complaints processes are generally entail convoluted bureaucratic processes, which can be inaccessible for students and serve to silence complainants.
 3. Even in the case of misconduct, assault or abuse, students are primarily directed to complaints procedures.
 4. Complaints procedures must take into account the victimisation and reprisals complainants can be subjected to, and the potential this has to impact safety and well-being.
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5. Students who engage in complaints against their colleges, universities and student's unions should not be barred from engaging in study, student life, or support services.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. Complaints procedures are often tightly restricted by time, with some limitations as little as 6 weeks following the incident - this is often insufficient for the victim to process what has happened.
2. Complaints procedures are particularly inaccessible to students with jobs, health conditions and caring responsibilities.
3. At some institutions, black students are statistically overrepresented in complaints.
4. Reasonable adjustments, such as adjusted deadlines or use of auxiliary devices, must be afforded to disabled students so that they can fully access complaints procedures.
5. Students who pursue complaints against their education institutions are not always afforded due process, confidentiality or safeguarding from reprisals.
6. Pursuing a complaint can be a traumatising experience, as the complainant must recollect and document the transgression which has transpired. This can be exasperated by sensitive material or power imbalance between the complainant and respondent.

Women's Conference Resolves


1. The NUS Women's Campaign will work with the Office of the Independent Adjudicator on improving guidance and investigating common issues students experience in pursuing complaints.
2. The NUS Women's Campaign will encourage the Equality and Human Rights Commission to conduct an inquiry into Gender Discrimination in Higher Education, looking at student experiences of complaints procedures and internal representations in relation to gender discrimination.
3. The NUS Women's Campaign will provide guidance for Students' Unions and students campaigning for complaints procedure reforms.


Motion 305: Justice for support staff

Women's Conference Believes

1. A large number of universities use outsource their support services (cleaning, catering, security, etc.) to private companies like Sodexo, Axis and G4S, in an attempt to save money and increase efficiency in according to neoliberal logic
2. This has created a two-tier workforce, with contracted support workers lacking the rights, benefits (sick pay, etc.), security, decent working conditions and bargaining power that in-house workers have¹
3. These contracted workers are predominately working-class migrants of colour and women of colour
4. Universities and private companies are also trying to increase surveillance on these workers (fingerprint scanning), and have subjected staff to immigration raids²

Women's Conference Further Believes

5. The work done by these workers are essential to the functioning and the running of our universities
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6. Bringing these workers in house will give these workers dignity and give them back benefits they deserve
 7. These workers are some of our parents, aunties and uncles
 8. Staff and student solidarity is key feminist principle and by joining the fight, we can help strength worker bargaining power
 9. Insecure and unfair contracts are pervasive in the academy, and are part of the increasing marketisation of universities.

Women's Conference Resolves

10. For NUS Women's Campaign to stand in solidarity with support staff and continue to campaign for an end to the outsourcing of our support services.
11. For NUS Women's Campaign to extend our solidarity and amplify the work of student-led organising groups campaigning for an end to outsourcing in their institution.
12. For NUS Women's Campaign to produce resources that help student organisers on campus to strategise and strengthen staff-student solidarity.

1 - <https://discoversociety.org/2017/12/06/on-the-frontline-confronting-precarioussness-outsourcing-and-exploitation-lessons-from-the-lse-cleaners/>

2 - <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/12/college-cleaners-outsourcing-soas#>






400 Strong and Active Unions


Motion 401: Guidance on inclusion of non-binary people in women's spaces

Women's Conference Believes

1. Non-binary people are those who have a gender identity which is not simply "man" or "women". Labels for some common non-binary genders include those who are agender, genderqueer, genderfluid, bigender etc.
2. Trans liberation is not replacing the gender binary of "male" and "female" with the gender trinary of "man", "woman" and "non-binary". Non-binary people are diverse and have a wide variety of different relationships to "manhood" and "womanhood", and these relationships are often explored in depth in non-binary spaces.
3. Many non-binary people have roots in the Global South and in settler colonies. The process of colonisation has reinforced a White gender binary on societies where previously it did not exist. Many people of colour have experiences that would be recognised by White medical and academic establishments as being trans/non-binary, but many of those people of colour would not use those labels to refer to themselves. The labels of trans, non-binary etc. being forced on them is another wave of colonialism and violence which forces them to conform to a White interpretation of "transness".
4. Many women's associations have (with good intentions) opened membership up to non-binary people and "non-men". However, many trans women still feel as though they are not or would not be sufficiently supported in women's spaces.
5. The successor body to the NUS NEC, the National Scrutiny Council, implements a gender balancing system where there are reserved spaces for women and non-binary people.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. Women's liberation and non-binary liberation are interlinked, but neither group is best served by homogenising their oppression.
 2. The oppression of non-binary people is as diverse as non-binary experiences. Some of those experiences will relate to being a woman and some of those won't. It is problematic to assume that all non-binary people are "women-lite" and need women's spaces to be re-named or reconstituted for them.
 3. For a hypothetical "women's and non-binary" group to function, it must include ALL non-binary people, not just those that "look like women". In reality this does not happen, because women's societies are often cissexist and are mainly interested in including non-binary people who are assigned female at birth and don't identify with manhood.
 4. For many women's groups it is assumed that inclusion of non-binary non-women in their group is the next step in trans inclusion, despite not having done the necessary work on transmisogyny.
 5. Women's only spaces are not transphobic or problematic! But as a broad principle, the trans people who access women's spaces should include trans women, non-binary women and any other person with "woman" as part of a complex gender identity. In the latter two cases, this is independent of birth assignment.
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6. Steps to improve the participation of non-binary and other trans people should not come at the cost of women's representation.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. To issue guidance to women's groups on campus along the above lines in relation to their trans inclusion policies.
2. To campaign to change the gender balancing of the National Scrutiny Council so that half the places are reserved for women (as defined in further believes 5).

Motion 402: Recognising Women's Work on Their Campuses


Women's Conference Believes

1. Women have historically been underrepresented within Students' Unions, and continue to face marginalisation when running for elections, and during their roles.
2. Due to invisibilisation of women students' activism and achievements in Officer roles, the volume and impact of women students has been largely erased;
3. This occurs simultaneously with the hypervisibility of women student activists and Officers - in both full time and part time roles - receive disproportionate harassment and abuse, including but not limited to hyper scrutiny, sexual harassment and objectification.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. The aforementioned disproportionate harassment and abuse is heightened for more marginalised women, such as women of colour; queer women and disabled women; and those who are at the intersections of these identities.
2. The achievements and contributions of women students to the student movement must be memorialised in order to be properly acknowledged, recognised, and empower young women entering the movement.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. The NUS Women's Campaign will create a national archive of women student activists and Officers' contributions to the student movement.
 2. The NUS Women's Campaign will collaborate with the NUS Disabled Students' Campaign to review the inaccessibility of elections processes for disabled women.
 3. The NUS Women's Campaign will work with the NUS Black Students' Campaign to develop a guide for women of colour running in elections.
 4. To reaffirm support for women FTOs and PTOs, as stipulated in Motion 403 (passed 2017), and to extend this to collaborate with the NUS LGBT+ and NUS Trans campaign in supporting LGBT+ women and non-binary students running for election.
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Motion 403: DEFENDING NUS LIBERATION CAMPAIGNS

Women's Conference Believes

1. The Turnaround White Paper proposed an option that the work currently being done by six Liberation FTOs be compressed into a single role of 'VP Liberation and Equality.'
2. NUS National Conference 2019 voted through a reform motion that instead maintains Liberation FTO positions.
3. Elections for NUS Liberation campaign committees, including the Women's Committee, have been indefinitely suspended.
4. So far in the Turnaround process, FTOs have had their budgets cut and reallocated.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. Drastic cuts to Liberation campaigns and the removal of campaign committees will threaten the ability of students belonging to liberation groups to self-organise and participate in NUS democracy.
2. Liberation committee elections are a vital guarantee of a voice and representation for some of the most marginalised of our members.
3. Liberation committees are essential for
 - i. supporting the running of Liberation campaigns;
 - ii. representing Liberation campaigns within NUS;
 - iii. accountability to their respective memberships; and
 - iv. invaluable support to Liberation FTOs.
4. At a time when hate crimes are on the rise and fascists are increasing their presence on campuses, defending autonomous Liberation campaigns is more essential than ever to challenge and overturn oppression.

Women's Conference Resolves


1. To demand the reinstatement of Liberation campaign committees and reject any further cuts to Liberation officer positions and budgets.
2. To demand financial accountability from NUS boards and full consultation with Liberation campaigns and officers in ongoing Turnaround decision-making processes.
3. For the National Women's Officer to form an informal working group in replacement of a formal Women's Campaign committee.

Motion 404: Supporting Women's Officers and Feminist Activism in the Nations

Women's Conference Believes

NUS National Conference 2019 voted through a reform motion that made provisions only for one full-time elected officer in NUS Wales, NUS Scotland and NUS-USI respectively.

From 2019-2020, the Nations (Wales, Scotland and NI) will no longer have a Full- Time Women's Officer.





Women's Conference Further Believes

Students in the Nations already feel underrepresented and unheard within NUS, this will be further exaggerated in the absence of Nations' Women's Officers connecting students to central Liberation campaigns for support and resources.

Proposed cuts to NUS UK Liberation campaign budgets as well as the removal of campaign committees will further threaten the ability of students in the Nations in liberation groups to self-organise and participate fully in NUS democracy.


Women's Conference Resolves

For the NUS Women's Officer to remain a support to women's officers and feminist activists in students unions in Wales, Scotland and NI, remaining up to date on devolved issues that will affect the campaign's membership in the Nations.

For the NUS Women's Officer to facilitate both an online network and an activist training day for women's officers and student feminist activists in Wales, Scotland and NI respectively.

For the NUS Women's Officer to work towards the reinstatement of Nations' Women's Officers in ongoing NUS reform.

For the National Women's Officer to include a representative for each of the Nations as part of an informal working group in place of a formal Women's Campaign committee.



Motion 501: Representation on the National Scrutiny Council**Women's Conference Believes**

1. The National Scrutiny Council will primarily be an accountability body.
2. The National Scrutiny Council will have the ability to pass emergency policy between National Conferences.
3. Although the National Scrutiny Council will be gender balanced, there are no designated places for representatives from the NUS Women's Campaign.
4. The NUS must engage all NUS Liberation groups and Sections in democratic participation.
5. Whereas the previous National Executive Council was composed of representatives from the liberation and sections campaigns of NUS, the new National Scrutiny Council has no autonomous liberation or sections representation.

Women's Conference Further Believes

1. That the scrutiny of the NUS President and Vice-Presidents would benefit from specific liberation and sections perspectives. The National Scrutiny Council should be reconfigured in order to enable this.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. For the special committees and working groups of the National Scrutiny Council to include representatives of Liberation groups and Sections.
2. To campaign for the officers (or in the case of the officers not being elected, a volunteer representative) elected at NUS Liberation Conference to have automatic membership of NSC.
3. To campaign for volunteer representatives to be elected to NSC from sections caucuses at UK Conference.
4. To campaign for the number of NSC representatives elected from the whole UK conference to be reduced in order to achieve the above.



Policy Lapse

Motion 306: Gendered Islamophobia

Conference believes

1. In the wake of major events, the number of Islamophobic attacks have increased, even tripled in some places.
2. Muslim women have overwhelmingly been the target of physical attacks.
3. From being doused in alcohol to being pushed in front of an oncoming tube train, Muslim women have been targeted due to their religion, race and gender, compounding the effects of these attacks.
4. In addition to this, the relationship between bigoted attitudes on the street and online incidences of harassment and trolling has never been close

Conference further believes

1. The gendered, racist and Islamophobic nature of these attacks needs to be seriously addressed.
2. The anonymity afforded by social media can make online harassment incessant and unable to tackle when companies like Twitter make the reporting procedure difficult.
3. When responding to or raising issues about online trolling, Muslim women risk further backlash, and the implications of these can be grave.

Conference resolves


1. To condemn the attacks on Muslim women.
2. To carry out research on the effects of Islamophobia on Muslim women students, and the barriers that stop them from participating in student life.


Motion 402: Part-Time Activist Development

Conference believes

1. Elected part-time women's officers lead union-wide campaigns that can have a far reaching impact
2. Part-time women's officers are often required to balance their duties on council with their academics (as well as their personal life)
3. The responsibilities of being on council and balancing academics can take a physical and mental toll on part-time officers
4. Part-time liberation officers are not always paid by Unions for their work

Conference further believes

1. The NUS Women's Campaign has offered initiatives like the Women's Officer Boot Camp
 2. The NUS Women's Campaign has also launched and delivered self-care workshops to Unions throughout the country
 3. Initiatives like the Women's Officer Boot Camp ought to be expanded
 4. Students' Unions around the country are readily available to "empower students" – but assistance is required in the form of sufficient support and training for part-time activists
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5. Activist self-care ought to be a priority for Unions throughout the country
 6. Without the required training, support and self-care (activist development), campaigns can only have limited impact/ reach

Conference resolves

1. The mandate the NUS Women's Officer, and the HE and FE on the Women's Campaigns Committee to provide further activist development initiatives (in the form of boot camps, leadership programmes and self-care workshops) for part-time women's officers
2. NUS Women's campaign to encourage SU's to provide self-care initiatives for part-time women's officers (and other liberation activists)
3. The NUS Women's Campaign to provide further resources in the form of toolkits and workshops on activist self-care as guidance for Unions
4. For NUS Women's Campaign to promote part-time activist development nationally
5. For NUS to apply pressure (encourage) Unions to pay part-time liberation officers for their hard work.

Motion 403: Database of Best practice for Women's Officers


Conference believes

1. That valuable and exciting campaigning is always occurring at many different universities and student unions
2. That women's officers and liberation officers could benefit from receiving regular updates about the major achievements of other student unions and the resources used to achieve this progress, so that they can be replicated elsewhere
3. That it is difficult for other student unions to learn of these achievements
4. That a Facebook Group does exist for women's officers across the country, in addition to other Facebook groups linking campaign and liberation officers across the country, but that it is not quite suitable or sufficient in providing regular updates and resources

Conference further believes

1. That an online resource for women's officers and liberation officers would draw together all the best work achieved nationally
2. That this would make their workload and time constraints easier
3. That sharing and collaborating between women's officers would make unions stronger and ensure that progress for women and other liberation groups happens faster

Conference resolves

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to publish an online resource updated termly with information sent by women's officers and student unions, detailing their core achievements in campaigning for women and liberation groups, and to publish their contact details so that they can share best practice
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Motion 503: Abortion Devolution

Conference believes

1. An announcement from the Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell, on 14th October 2015, stated the Scottish Affairs Committee at Westminster will amend the Scotland Bill to devolve abortion law to the Scottish Parliament.
2. The amendment was initially brought forward by three English anti-choice MPs from the All-Party Parliamentary Pro-Life group, who seek to restrict women's access to reproductive justice.

Conference further believes


1. There is a threat to women's reproductive rights already posed by the motion to Parliament lodged by John Mason, MSP (SNP), stating the importance of "achieving a proper balance" between the "fundamental rights of babies to be protected both before and after birth as well as the importance of women's sexual and reproductive rights".
2. Abortion legislation is rarely revisited as it is so contentious, therefore Scotland needs to get it right first time.
3. Devolution of abortion to Scotland poses questions around the stability of abortion legislation in the rest of the UK.
4. Although firmly pro-choice, the Women's Campaign has not been mobilised to effectively campaign against any threats to a woman's right to choose.
5. It's vitally important that any discussions about devolution of the legislation meaningfully and genuinely involves those who are capable of conceiving


Conference resolves

1. To build campaigning capacity on a local and national level, by mobilising students, women's groups and feminist societies.
2. To continue to campaign for improved reproductive health education in primary and secondary education.
3. To put active pro-choice campaigning as a Women's Campaign priority for 2016/17.

Motion 508: Black Women and Mental Health

Conference believes

1. Women of Colour (WoC) are having to deal with their mental health independently and not offered competent care or support
 2. The mental health of WoC is often side-lined or dismissed outright in narratives concerning mental health
 3. In general, people from black and minority ethnic groups living in the UK are more likely to be diagnosed with mental health problems, admitted to hospital, experience a poor outcome from treatment, disengage from mental health services leading to social exclusion and a deterioration of their mental health
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4. While mental illness is no more common in Africa or the Caribbean than it is in the UK as a whole, it is a bigger problem for African and African Caribbean communities living in the UK
 5. The trope of the “strong Black Woman” (sapphire stereotype), disillusionment with medical institutions, cultural stigma surrounding mental health stresses the need for culturally inclusive mental healthcare

Conference further believes

1. The image of the “strong Black woman” disinclines black and brown women to show vulnerability, whilst simultaneously adding to the culture of stigma that surrounds mental illnesses
2. The sapphire stereotype concerning black women conveys that they have built-in capacities to deal with hardships without breaking down, physical or mentally
3. African and African Caribbean communities, including those of white and black mixed ethnicity, can face additional problems that may affect their mental health (e.g. gendered racism)
4. In the US one African-American commits suicide every 4.5 hours
5. Even though the image may be employed for self-empowerment, it should be questioned because it is often used as a way to chastise Black women who openly suffer from mental illness
6. 63 per cent of African Americans believe depression is a personal weakness
7. The top-rated barriers to treatment for African-Americans are denial, embarrassment and shame
8. We need culturally competent care that addresses the needs of non-white and non-Western groups

Conference resolves

1. We request that NUS undertake research into Black women’s experiences of mental health provisions at university
2. To produce a report as a result of the research and host a series of events launching it with a view to start campaigning on the issues revealed
3. To arrive at a set of recommendations and toolkits for action and local campaigns, on engaging, interacting with, and supporting Muslim women at universities following consultation and events around launching the report
4. For NUS Women’s campaign to encourage SU’s to provide self-care initiatives and culturally sensitive mental health provisions for black and brown women
5. For NUS to apply pressure (encourage) Unions to push their respective universities to offer culturally competent care¹²¹³

Motion 510: Accessibility at Campus Events


Conference believes

1. That many university student activist and campaign events are not accessible

¹² <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/b/black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-bame-communities>

¹³ <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Blackhealth/Pages/Mentalhealth.aspx>



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2. That many events at university locations, particularly at institutions with old buildings, are not wheelchair accessible and do not readily have equipment and resources such as audio or visual transcription
 3. That many events do not contain access breaks or safe spaces for triggering material when these measures would be appropriate and/or necessary
 4. That there are many other accessibility requirements and issues which need to be considered at campaign events, such as the presence of food, expenditure for attendees, or the way in which the event is pitched (e.g. over-theorising and space taken up by privileged individuals which may alienate attendees)
 5. That ableist language is still prevalent in many spaces
 6. That this is a feminist issue and that any campaign which does not accommodate the requirements of disabled students cannot be truly inclusive

Conference further believes

1. That meeting accessibility requirements at events should not occur in exceptional circumstances – where possible, it should be the norm
2. That it is not always possible for often underfunded campaigns to provide expensive equipment or resources on their own but that every effort should be made to accommodate every requirement and that, where possible, aid should be given to them to be able to meet these requirements


Conference resolves


1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to work with the NUS Disabled Students Campaign to produce guidance which informs disabled students of their rights and what support they are entitled to in terms of support from their college/university and student union
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to work with the NUS Disabled students campaign to produce a resource for women's officers on keeping spaces and events accessible, including a section on respectful and non-ableist language
3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to work with the NUS Disabled Students Campaign to produce guidance for Womens officers and student unions to in lobbying their institutions to give more generous funding to campaigns and activist groups for resources which are often difficult to fund, such as transcription

Motion 511: Keep Perpetrators out of Activist Spaces

Content Warning: Sexual Violence

Conference believes

1. That people involved in women's and liberation activism and campaigning can and do commit acts of sexual violence
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2. That protecting perpetrators, knowingly inviting them into activist spaces or wilfully disregarding their actions is rape apologism, that this perpetuates rape culture in valuing their welfare over that of the survivor's and sends the message to survivors that they are not believed
 3. That sexual violence and rape apologism is never acceptable, but especially not in spaces which either directly or indirectly recognise rape culture and which work to raise awareness of sexual violence

Conference further believes


1. That a significant proportion of women experience sexual violence. The NUS Hidden Marks states that 1 in 7 women students will be raped or seriously sexually assaulted during their time at university and that 68% will experience some form of sexual harassment
2. That we exist in a culture where survivors are often not believed
3. That sexual violence is prevalent in so many spaces and that it is therefore vital that spaces which directly or indirectly raise awareness of sexual violence are both safe and leading by example


Conference resolves

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to produce resources for women's officers on keeping activist spaces safe for survivors
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to release a statement stating that it believes all survivors and that it will not tolerate rape apologism in activist spaces

Motion 2: Double Discrimination – Racism and Sexism in Education

Conference believes


1. Sexism and racism are evident in our institutions and remain a barrier for women to reach their full potential at college and then in the world of work.
 2. Black women are oppressed by racism and sexism, so face a double oppression in education and employment.
 3. Women make up the larger percentage in higher education.
 4. There are more Black students studying in London Metropolitan University than there are in the entire Russell Group.
 5. 4 years ago research showed that if you had a typically Black sounding name you were likely to receive up to 12% lower marks.
 6. 2 years ago the university of Leeds changed to anonymous marking and the marks of Black students and women went up by up to 12%
 7. Colleges that are compliant with Race and other equalities legislation would have implemented anonymous marking.
 8. A survey of 50 FE colleges by the University Colleges Union (UCU) found none were compliant with the RRAA.
 9. Over 60% of Black students' studying in FE and a large proportion of these are women. The lack of compliance by FE colleges is a disgrace.
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10. Due to the racist and sexist job-market and pay gap, top-up fees and debt disproportionately impact upon Black students and Women.
 11. The higher education system faces cuts in spending. Cuts in spending always historically means cuts in equalities provisions. Therefore there is definitely reason for concern amongst liberation groups
 12. The introduction of anonymous marking in institutions has seen women's marks rise
 13. Before the University of Wales introduced anonymous marking in the faculty of arts 42% of men in the achieved either a first or upper second degree compared to 34% of women. In the first year after the introduction of anonymous marking, the figures were 42% for men and 47% for women.
 14. Women make up 13.2 per cent of university vice chancellors
 15. Anonymous marking is not in place in many institutions and in others is only used in certain departments

Conference further believes

1. Recent research by the ECU has shown that the attainment gap between Black and white students has widened, putting Black women at an even greater disadvantage.
2. Research shows suggests Black women students are less likely to get a 2.1 or First in their degree.
3. Vice-chancellors are lobbying for annual fees of over £5,000 in the upcoming funding review; alongside economic recession this will worsen the situation for Black, LGBT and Disabled women graduates.
4. Government plans to cut bursaries will further students deter students from disadvantage groups from pursuing education.
5. The proposed Single Equalities Bill does not go far enough to demand transparency in pay audits or guarantee positive action in education.
6. There is a belief that men are more academically gifted than women
7. Male lecturers are part of the patriarchy that survives by oppressing women whether consciously or not
8. Sexism is endemic in society and comments such as those by Buckingham University VC Terence Kealey describing women students as a perk of the job show it is also endemic in the education sector

Conference resolves

1. Work with partner organisations to 'name-and-shame' institutions failing to comply with race and gender legislation and to demand that the EHRC takes action against these colleges.
 2. Join the other Liberation campaigns and other sections of NUS to demand Anonymous Marking for both exams and coursework.
 3. Equip students with action guides to make their institutions accountable.
 4. Actively campaign against fees and debt – for grants and EMAs that cover living costs.
 5. Oppose all cuts in equalities provision in FE and HE.
 6. Campaign for the extension of the Equality Bill to include Positive Action in student admissions.
 7. The introduction of anonymous marking in institutions has seen women's marks rise
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8. Before the University of Wales introduced anonymous marking in the faculty of arts 42% of men in the achieved either a first or upper second degree compared to 34% of women. In the first year after the introduction of anonymous marking, the figures were 42% for men and 47% for women.
 9. Women make up 13.2 per cent of university vice chancellors
 10. Anonymous marking is not in place in many institutions and in others is only used in certain departments
 11. To work with the VP HE and other liberation officers to revive the anonymous marking campaign
 12. To produce material for education officers informing them of the benefits of anonymous marking for women students
 13. Work with lecturers unions to ensure campaigns for anonymous marking are not seen as attack on staff
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