




nus *women* **CONFERENCE**

Wed 22nd – Thurs 23rd May | Bristol

Motions

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Purpose of this document

The work of the NUS Women's Campaign is directed by policy passed at Women's Conference. This document contains motions that have been submitted by Constituent Members. These motions are subject to compositing and may be moved by the Steering Committee at their discretion.

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100 Society and Citizenship

Motion 101: Solidarity with Rohingya Refugees

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye

Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Zone: Society and Citizenship

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.

Motion 102: For a labour movement that fights for trans women

Submitted by: Natalia Mole

Union: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Zone: Society and Citizenship

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.

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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.

Motion 103: Kashmir Solidarity

Submitted by: Mariyeh Mushtaq

Union: Birkbeck College Students' Union

Zone: Society and Citizenship

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


Submitted by: Eden Ladley

Union: NUS

Zone: Society and Citizenship

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:


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- 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.
 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.

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- 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

Submitted by: Eden Ladley

Union: NUS

Zone: Society and Citizenship

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.
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 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.

Amendment 105a

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye

Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Amendment Action: **REPLACE**

Conference Further Believes:

4. *The GRA as it is exclusionary and needs to be reformed.*

REPLACE with Conference Further Believes:

The GRA, as it is, is exclusionary and needs to be reformed.

Motion 106: Fighting for Climate Justice and Preventing Climate Crisis


Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye

Union: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Zone: Society and Citizenship

Women's Conference Believes

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.

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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.



200 Welfare and Student Rights

Motion 201: Supporting Student Parents and Carers

Submitted by: Sophia Moreau

Union: Birkbeck College Students' Union

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights


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.

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.
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.

Women's Conference Resolves

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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.

Amendment 201a: Lobbying Mumsnet

Submitted by: Eden Ladley
Constituent Member: NUS

Amendment Action: **ADD**

Women's Conference Believes:


1. 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.
2. There have been threads on Mumsnet attacking sitting NUS officers for taking pro-trans and pro-sex worker positions.
3. Trans parents and would-be parents often do not feel safe disclosing they are trans on the site.
4. 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.
5. 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. Trans parents deserve safe discussion spaces in which to talk about their experiences as trans parents.
2. 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. 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!

Submitted by: Lucy Clarke

Union: University of Huddersfield Students' Union

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

Women's Conference Believes


- 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.

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- 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

Submitted by: Lucy Clarke

Union: University of Huddersfield Students' Union

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

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.
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.

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. Services must be democratic and accountable and specialised to suit the needs of service users. Services should be brought in-house and democratic oversight including service workers and users established

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.

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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.

Amendment 203a

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye
Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Amendment Action: **REPLACE**

Women's Conference Further Believes:

4. Services must be democratic and accountable and specialised to suit the needs of service users. Services should be brought in-house and democratic oversight including service workers and users established

REPLACE with Conference Further Believes:

Domestic Abuse services must be specialised to suit the needs of all those accessing them.

Amendment 203b: Fund our Specialist Services!


Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye
Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Amendment Action: **ADD**

Women's Conference Believes:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Since 2010, at least 34 specialist refuge centres have been forced to close.
4. 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.

Women's Conference Further Believes

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1. 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.
 2. On 17th February 2017, Theresa May announced plans for a new programme of work leading towards bringing forward a Domestic Violence and Abuse Act.
 3. 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".

Women's Conference Resolves

1. 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.
2. For NUS Women's Campaign to continue to oppose the pro-arrest Domestic Abuse strategy laid out by the Tory government in the 2017 Domestic Violence Abuse Bill, and support lobbying efforts around the Bill by domestic abuse charities and organisations such as Imkaan.

Amendment 203c

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye
Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Amendment Action: **DELETE**

DELETE Women's Conference Resolves:


2. *For NUS Women's Campaign to continue to oppose the pro-arrest Domestic Abuse strategy laid out*

Motion 204: Disabled Women and Gender Based Violence

Submitted by: Rachel O'Brien
Union: NUS
Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

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.
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.


Amendment 204a: LGBT+ women and domestic abuse

Submitted by: Eden Ladley
Constituent Member: NUS

Amendment Action: **ADD**

Women's Conference Believes:

1. Women survivors of domestic abuse who are LGBT+ are often left out of mainstream narratives around domestic abuse.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.



5. 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. 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.)
2. The main organisation which provides support to LGBT+ survivors of domestic violence, Broken Rainbows, is often threatened by underfunding.
3. 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. To provide support to students who want to make their local shelters more LGBT+ inclusive.
2. To campaign for a system of student finance for HE and FE which removes the requirement to be dependent on parental support.

Motion 205: #MeTooOnCampus


Submitted by: Amy Moran

Union: University of Leicester Students' Union

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

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.
 - 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

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- 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

Submitted by: Lola Olufemi

Union: SOAS Students' Union

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

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


Submitted by: Eden Ladley

Union: NUS

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

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.

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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.
 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

Submitted by: Eden Ladley

Union: NUS

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights



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 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) A recognition that many Reclaim the Night organisers don't have pro-sex worker politics, and that steps should be taken 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



Amendment 208a:

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye
Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Amendment Action: **REPLACE**

REPLACE Women's Conference Resolves

c) A recognition that many Reclaim the Night organisers don't have pro-sex worker politics, and that steps should be taken to make RtN events pro-sex worker inclusive, including by platforming sex workers to speak

WITH Women's Conference Resolves

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

Motion 209: Period Poverty

Submitted by: Saharla Ismail
Union: The Students' Union at UWE
Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

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.

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. To implement a system to ensure all students have access to free sanitary products.

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2. For Universities to further support students who are suffering through period poverty.
 3. To destigmatize menstruation to ensure period poverty can be spoken about safely.
 4. To implement a system that ensures staff are aware of the implications that revolve around period poverty.

Amendment 209a: Austerity!

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye
Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Amendment Action: ADD Women's Conference Believes

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
3. 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 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.


Amendment 209b

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye
Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Amendment Action: DELETE

DELETE Women's Conference Resolves

1. *To implement a system to ensure all students have access to free sanitary products.*
2. *For Universities to further support students who are suffering through period poverty.*

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3. To destigmatize menstruation to ensure period poverty can be spoken about safely.
 4. To implement a system that ensures staff are aware of the implications that revolve around period poverty.

Motion 210: MOTION ON CAMPAIGN FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Submitted by: Rachel Watters

Union: Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

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;
 - 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.

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.
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.

Amendment 210a: Reproductive coercion

Submitted by: Emily Seshadri
Constituent Member: Birkbeck College Students' Union

Amendment Action: **ADD**


Women's Conference Believes

As an addition to point b (reproductive framework):

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 Resolves:

As an addition to point 1:



1. 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:

5. 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!

Submitted by: Sophia Moreau

Union: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

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.
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

Submitted by: The Union, Manchester Metropolitan University

Union: Manchester Metropolitan University SU

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

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.

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.



Women's Conference Resolves

1. NUS should lobby Unions to reduce the stigma around sexual health and create an open dialogue with their students.
2. NUS should incentive Unions to star a campaign surrounding sexual health and its importance.
3. Unions should be obliged to have local sexual health information on their websites, making it easier to access for students.

<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>

Amendment 212a:

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye

Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Amendment Action: **REPLACE**

REPLACE Women's Conference Resolves

1. *NUS should lobby Unions to reduce the stigma around sexual health and create an open dialogue with their students.*
2. *NUS should incentive Unions to star a campaign surrounding sexual health and its importance.*
3. *Unions should be obliged to have local sexual health information on their websites, making it easier to access for students.*

WITH 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.

Amendment 212b: LGBT+ women's sexual health

Submitted by: Eden Ladley

Constituent Member: NUS



Amendment Action: **ADD**

Women's Conference Believes:

1. That LGBT+ women have specific sexual health needs which are often ignored in wider discussions around sexual health, especially in LGBT+ sexual health.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Women's Conference Further Believes:

1. LGBT+ women deserve quality sexual health services and resources.

Women's Conferences Resolves:

1. To increase access to quality sexual healthcare in students' unions, including by increasing access to dental dams and LGBT+ women's sexual health guidance.
2. To work with the NUS LGBT+ Campaign on improving access to quality sexual healthcare for LGBT+ people.



300 Education

Motion 301: Political Education for All!

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye

Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Zone: Education

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

Submitted by: Claire Sosienski Smith

Constituent Member: Cambridge University Students' Union

Zone: Education

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 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

Submitted by: Eden Ladley

Union: NUS

Zone: Education



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.
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 delegitimation 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

Submitted by: Sophia Moreau

Union: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Zone: Education

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.
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.

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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

Submitted by: Sandra Ogundele

Union: Students' Union UCL

Zone: Education

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
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. To stand in solidarity and continue the fight to end the outsourcing of our support services
11. To produce resources that help students on campus 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#>



Amendment 305a:

Submitted by: Sarah Lasoye
Constituent Member: Women Students' Campaign Committee

Amendment Action: **REPLACE**

REPLACE Women's Conference Resolves

- 10. To stand in solidarity and continue the fight to end the outsourcing of our support services*
- 11. To produce resources that help students on campus strategise and strengthen staff-student*

WITH 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.



400 Strong and Active Unions

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

Submitted by: Eden Ladley

Union: NUS


Zone: Strong and Active Unions

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.

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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.
 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

Submitted by: Larissa Kennedy

Constituent Member: Warwick Students' Union

Zone: Strong and Active Unions

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.

Motion 403: DEFENDING NUS LIBERATION CAMPAIGNS

Submitted by: Rachel Watters

Constituent Member: Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Zone: Strong and Active Unions

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

Submitted by: Ammaara Nalban

Union: Aberystwyth University Students' Union

Zone: Strong and Active Unions

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.



500 Rules Revision

Motion 501: Representation on the National Scrutiny Council

Submitted by: Sophia Moreau

Union: Birkbeck College Students' Union

Zone: Rules Revision

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.

Women's Conference Resolves

1. The composition of the National Scrutiny Council should include the elected Women's Officer and a further representative elected within the Women's Conference or Caucus.
2. For the special committees and working groups of the National Scrutiny Council to include representatives of Liberation groups and Sections.
3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to support the inclusion of Sections Representatives in the composition of National Scrutiny Council.

Amendment 501a: Comprehensive Liberation and Sections representation on the NSC

Submitted by: Eden Ladley

Constituent Member: NUS

Amendment Action: **REPLACE**

ADD to Women's Conference Believes


1. 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.

ADD to 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.

DELETE Resolves 1 and 3 and ADD to Women's Conference Resolves and renumber

1. 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.
2. To campaign for volunteer representatives to be elected to NSC from sections caucuses at UK Conference.



3. To campaign for the number of NSC representatives elected from the whole UK conference to be reduced in order to achieve the above.