22nd – 23rd May 2019 | Bristol

Policy Lapse

CD10

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Purpose of this doucment

The work of the NUS Women's Campaign is directed by policy passed at Women's Conference. This document contains the policy passed from Women's Conference 2016 which is due to lapse this year.

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Policy Passed at Women's Conference 2016

Zone: Education

Motion 201: Statutory PHSE

Conference believes

1. PHSE (Personal, health, social and economic education) is currently taught in some schools in the UK
2. Four chairs of parliamentary select committees have called for Statutory PHSE
3. Statutory PHSE was voted down last year by ministers in an overwhelming majority.
4. The NUS Women's Campaign has done a lot of work in recent years on consent within sexual relationships but has not done research into students affected by domestic abuse, particularly emotional/coercive abuse.
5. Recent statistics from the Welsh government showed that 75% of young women students in Wales have experienced some form of emotional abuse from a partner.
6. Comprehensive sex and relationship education in schools is sporadic, and of varying quality. Many young people grow up without an understanding of the dynamics of a healthy relationship.
7. Non-physical abuse (such as coercive behaviour, control, emotional and mental abuse, and financial control) often goes unrecognised by victims as signs of an abusive relationship.

Conference further believes

1. That there should be statutory PHSE and it should include:
2. Consent (There is more to consent than sex!)
3. Information about diverse genders
4. Information about a diverse range of sexualities (including identities on the ace spectrum)
5. What the white curriculum is
6. Cultural appropriation (including the reality of colonialism)
7. Make sure everyone knows about periods and the reality for those who menstruate
8. Diverse range of sanitary product options (e.g. Pads, tampons and mooncups)
9. Impact of rape culture
10. Body positivity and representation in the media
11. Mental health and self-care
12. Invisible disabilities
13. Intersectionality
14. Racism
15. Tackle virgin stigma, slut shaming, and prude shaming
16. Contraception
17. Truth about sex which is LGBT+ inclusive
18. Abortion rights - including but not limited to how to get an abortion
19. The political system and how to engage with it

20. Why victim blaming is wrong
21. Harm reduction for drugs and not abstinence
22. How to do taxes
23. Rent and finances
24. Information on Porn not being real while being pro sex worker
25. Sex work
26. Humanisation of women
27. Consultation on what should be on here!
28. PHSE lessons should not be not segregated by (perceived) gender.
29. Educating people at an early age about this areas would greatly improve and impact current culture.
30. What is currently taught in many schools is not good enough.
31. By having poor PHSE we are letting the next generation down
32. The government has a responsibility to educate people on these issues
33. People deserve to have the information about things that will greatly impact there life
34. The number of hours which is currently made available for PHSE should be increase.
35. Specialist in areas are far better than one person covering every area
36. PHSE should be taught as early as possible
37. Domestic abuse is often represented in purely physical manifestations
38. Emotional abuse and coercive behaviour often comes hand in hand with physical abuse, but not always.
39. Consequently, many students who are in coercive/abusive relationships may not spot the signs of an unhealthy relationship as abusive.

Conference resolves

1. To campaign for Statutory PHSE as described in Conference further believes 1
2. To run a day of action lobbying MPs to sign an early-day motion to make PHSE statutory.
3. Lobby the government to run or run ourselves consultation on what should be included in PHSE
4. For the women's campaign to work with schools, FE institutions and relevant charities to build a resource pack.
5. To build a resource pack for students to use to engage their local schools.
6. To undertake a piece of research into the experiences of students and domestic violence, ensuring that non-physical abuse is afforded equal prominence within the work.
7. Develop a long term project supporting students and bystanders.
8. Extend the consent campaign to offer training and resources for students' unions/associations on healthy relationships.

Motion 202: Frozen 2 – Loan Repayments and Women

Conference believes

1. In the Autumn statement, Chancellor George Osborne announced a freeze on the repayment threshold of student loans until at least 2020.

2. A research report concluded that this would mean on average paying an extra £2,800 over 30 years, but for women would be £3,300 on average as women tend to have lower earnings and tend to pay back their loan for longer.
3. This constitutes a retrospective fee hike which proposes to charge the rich less for education than the poor.
4. This is a direct ideological attack on working class and low-income women and non-binary students and graduates, motivated by the desire to fully marketise the education system.
5. This is happening in the context of the scrapping of maintenance grants and their replacement with loans, which will force the poorest students into thousands of pounds more debt, and the backdoor fee increases and marketisation proposed as part of the HE reforms.
6. Loans and existing debt should be scrapped, and replaced with free education and living grants for all in FE and HE, funded by taxing the rich and big business.

Conference resolves

1. To ensure the Women's Campaign has involved with the priority campaigns dealing with access to education and student debt.
2. To work with student unions and feminist societies to educate students about the changes to the loan repayment conditions and the disproportionate effect it will have on women students and graduates, and to actively work with national campaigns against the HE reforms and cuts to maintenance grants and for free education and universal living grants as a feminist demand.
3. To build links between the student and trade union movements to actively oppose and campaign against the changes to loan repayment conditions as part of the fight against the HE reforms and cuts to maintenance grants, including organising protests and supporting and encouraging students to join picket lines, and engage in direct action and occupations.

Zone: Society and Citizenship

Motion 301: No Women in Men's Prisons

Content Warning: Prison Abuse, Rape, Suicide.

Conference believes

1. That Tara Hudson, a trans woman, was placed in a male prison despite the judge sentencing her recommending that she should be placed in a female prison.
2. That Vicky Thompson, another trans woman who said she would kill herself if she was placed in a male prison, was placed in HMP Leeds, a Category B male prison, and was subsequently found dead in November 2015.
3. That Joanne Latham, another trans woman, was placed in HMP Woodhill, and was subsequently found dead in November 2015
4. That the Ministry of Justice and the Women and Equalities Select Committee are aware of abuses of trans people in the justice system, as shown by submissions to the latter body.

5. An emergency motion to similar effect was passed at NUS Trans conference last year.

Conference further believes

1. That placing trans people into prisons based on the gender they were assigned at birth puts them at high risk of violence and abuse from both other prisoners and prison staff.
2. That automatically placing trans people in isolated confinement constitutes torture based on their identity.
3. Self-definition should be the only criteria when deciding which gendered prison someone should be in.
4. Placing these trans women into a men's prison makes the government directly responsible for the deaths of these women.

Conference resolves

1. That prisons minister Andrew Selous should resign, and the NUS should campaign for his resignation.
2. For a completely independent inquiry into abuses of trans people in the justice system.
3. That custodial sentences should only be used as an absolute last resort when all other methods of rehabilitation have failed.
4. That anybody receiving a custodial service should be placed in the general population of a prison conforming to their self-defined gender.
5. To campaign for the Ministry of Justice review on trans women in the justice system to include at least one trans woman on the panel.
6. To campaign for the changing of prison for any trans women placed in a men's prison.

Motion 303: Prison Abolition is a Feminist Issue

Conference believes

1. Prison does not work; 47% of prisoners re-offend within one year.
2. 53% of women in prison are survivors of sexual violence.
3. 49% of women in prison have depression or anxiety.
4. 67% of women in prison for killing somebody close to them were abused by that person.
5. 46% of women in prison reported attempting suicide at some point in their lives.
6. Trans people are regularly incarcerated in the wrong gendered prison and/or denied hormone therapy.
7. 66% of women in prison have dependent children under 18.
8. In the last decade the women's prison population has gone up by 33%, with two thirds being in prison for non-violent offences.
9. Approximately 90% of prisoners report experiencing some kind of mental illness.

Conference further believes

1. The prison-industrial complex is a fundamentally unjust system; one that disproportionately affects and harms women, people of colour, LGBTQI+, sex worker, trans and working-class communities.
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.
7. People are politically targeted by the state and unfairly incarcerated.

Conference resolves

1. To call for the abolition of the prison-industrial complex.
2. To emphasise community and transformative justice as a replacement for state incarceration.
3. To offer financial assistance to organisations including but not limited to The Empty Cages Collective.
4. To oppose proposed regressive prison reforms.
5. To support initiatives that write letters of solidarity to prisoners.

Motion 305: My Identity is not your business

Conference believes

1. The current system of legal gender recognition requires trans people to submit themselves as a case to a gender recognition panel.
2. Acquiring evidence for and the charge for the panel hearing required for gender recognition is cost-prohibitive and time consuming, and discourages trans people from doing so.
3. Gender recognition also requires that you declare your intention to live in your 'assumed gender' permanently.
4. Non-binary gender identities are not recognised under the law, and even though assuming the other binary gender is seen by some as a compromise, it is much harder for a non-binary person to attain a Gender Recognition Certificate.
5. The 2013 Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act enshrined the 'spousal veto' into law, allowing a married trans person's partner the opportunity to veto their application.

Conference further believes

1. Submission to the gender recognition panels is an unnecessarily cruel system of gender recognition, and a group of (likely cisgender) 'experts' have no business determining our gender identities.
2. Gender identity is not a static concept, and the requisite 'permanence' of gender transitioning is damaging, pathologizing and unnecessary.
3. A system of self-definition should become the new model of gender recognition. It should be free, recognise non-binary identities and no individual should have power of determination or a veto over you.
4. The Equality Act 2010 should be amended to cover non-binary as a protected characteristic.
5. Marriage should be gender neutral.

Conference resolves

1. To condemn and campaign against the gender recognition system as established by the 2004 Gender Recognition Act and 2013 Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act.
2. To campaign for an inclusive system of gender recognition based upon self-definition.
3. To reach out to LGBTQ and women's groups (student or otherwise) around the country to join us in this campaign.
4. To lobby the government to:
    a. Legally recognise the existence of non-binary people.
    b. Recognise being non-binary as a protected characteristic.
    c. Make marriage entirely gender neutral.

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 307: #BursaryOrBust

Conference believes

1. The government is currently proposing abolishing the NHS bursaries that support midwifery, nursing and other health students.
2. Nursing students spend half of their year on unpaid placements, with a heavy workload and other commitments to balance.

3. Kings College London Nursing have led the campaign against scrapping the bursaries (#BursaryOrBust), including a popular demonstration on the 9th January, attended by students across the country.
4. 'Westminster' Government
5. The Scottish Government is currently undergoing a review of the NMSB (Nursing and Midwifery Student Bursary) due to be completed Summer 2016.

Conference further believes

1. The gendered impact of this proposal is evident, women will be at a greater disadvantage.
2. Many health studies students are from disadvantaged backgrounds already, with the NHS bursaries providing an entry into higher education that would not have existed
3. Mature women students have highlighted the necessity of the bursaries, citing their removal as a barrier to future women thinking of studying NHS courses.
4. Fighting alongside NHS funded students should be a priority for feminists in the student movement
5. The scrapping of NHS bursaries is an attack on working class women and non-traditional students: the majority of NHS funded students are women, working class, mature students and students with caring responsibilities, many of whom could not have even contemplated the course without the bursary.
6. The removal of the bursary would force prospective nurses and allied health professionals to effectively pay to work.
7. It is also the fight for the reversal of cuts to, and the marketisation and privatisation of, the NHS
8. The campaign to save NHS Bursaries should also be placed in the context of the fight against the imposition of the junior doctors' contract.
9. The BMA has called a further three 48-hour strikes, on 9th March, 6th April and 26th April
10. These strikes are not only to defend junior doctors' pay and conditions, but to save the NHS from further marketisation and privatisation, and to defend patient care and safety.
11. If imposed, the junior doctors' contract is likely to widen the gender pay gap in medicine, and is essentially a penalty for care work, as women tend to spend more years in training than men in order to balance caring responsibilities and their job.

Conference resolves

1. To call for an equality impact assessment of these proposals
2. To support KCL and all other NHS students fighting these proposals.
3. The bursary review in Scotland will undoubtedly be impacted by the removal of bursaries in England, both in terms of Barnett consequentials and by setting precedent.
4. To support and work closely with NUS Scotland Women's Campaign in their work campaigning for fair funding for student nurses and midwives.
5. To actively campaign against the scrapping of NHS bursaries, to work with the BMA to link this with the fight against the junior doctors' contract and to link up with national campaigns to defend the NHS from cuts, marketisation and privatisation.

6. To actively encourage women and non-binary students and femsocs to join junior doctors on picket lines across the country.
7. To encourage femsocs to work with local campaigns against NHS cuts, marketisation and privatisation.

Motion 308: Teaching Muslim Women What?

Conference believes

1. On 18th January 2016, David Cameron announced £20 million funding for English Classes for Muslim women.
2. In the years before this, David Cameron has been cutting ESOL funding, directly impacting women migrants, including Muslim women.
3. The Adult Skills budget that funds ESOL has been cut by 35% since 2009, which resulted in a 22% drop in attendance - excluding thousands of migrant women from learning English
4. Last Summer, £45 million was slashed from the ESOL budget.
5. Funding for childcare has also been eroded.

Conference further believes

1. The patronising nature of the announcement stigmatised an entire community of women.
2. Linking language to extremism sets a dangerous precedent.
3. Migrant women who have been shut out of ESOL classes are more likely to have poor working conditions, low pay, poor housing and poor health.
4. ESOL classes should be free and easily accessible to all, regardless of immigration status.
5. ESOL classes should also be accessible for those with caring responsibilities and those who work varying shift patterns.
6. We must fight gendered and racialised attack on ESOL teachers' pay and conditions and job security.
7. Adult education is undergoing devastating cuts: funding to non-apprenticeship adult learning will fall by 24% in 2015/2016.
8. Adult education is the way some of the most disadvantaged students access vital education.
9. Fighting for adult education should be a priority of all students.

Conference resolves

1. To condemn David Cameron's inability to strategise and separate counter-extremism efforts from schemes that will help society prosper
2. To highlight the Islamophobic nature in which Muslim women are instrumentalised by the media and the government.
3. To encourage a wider debate on institutional Islamophobia against women students.
4. To link up with UCU and other national campaigns against cuts to ESOL using (but not limited to) lobbying, creative actions, direct action such as shockupations and occupations.

Zone: Strong and Active Unions

Motion 401: Supporting the creation of a full time paid NUS Trans Officer and an autonomous NUS Trans Liberation Campaign

Conference believes

1. At the first ever democratic NUS trans conference trans students voted to have a full time paid NUS trans officer and an autonomous NUS trans liberation campaign.
2. NUS trans conference mandated the NUS LGBT+ officers in collaboration with those from the NUS LGBT+ committee who define as trans to submit a motion to NUS LGBT+ Conference to amend the NUS LGBT+ standing orders AND to submit a motion to NUS National Conference 2016 to do this.
3. Trans conference also resolved that the reserved NUS LGBT+ officer place for women within the campaign remains and that the creation of a full time paid NUS Trans officer must not supersede this.
4. Transphobia stems entirely from the same patriarchal structures as misogyny.
5. Trans people of all gender identities are targets and victims of (but not limited to) trans-misogyny, transphobia, sexism, racism, ableism, and LGBTIA+-phobia.
6. Trans women of colour are particularly disproportionately affected by trans-misogyny as they experience multiple oppressions, such as both racism and transphobia.
7. As transphobia is difficult to fight at the ground level due to lack of support from Universities and Student Unions, fear of persecution by TERFs (Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists) and transphobia within their own LGBTQIA+ community, therefore, trans students would directly benefit from representation at higher levels in the student movement.
8. A motion at NUS National conference 2015 to create a full time paid NUS trans officer fell narrowly missing the required 2/3rd majority needed.

Conference further believes

1. The women's campaign should always support the decisions made by trans students on trans issues.
2. That NUS' liberation campaigns and the voice of marginalised students must be prioritised above all other activities of NUS that are not essential to its survival as an organisation.
3. That a feminism that does not address every aspect of misogyny cannot be intersectional, and cannot succeed; and does not reflect this campaign.
4. That this campaign has a proud history of fighting TERFism
5. LGBT+ women should have specific representation
6. The reserved NUS LGBT+ officer place for women within the LGBT+ campaign should remain.

Conference resolves

1. For the women's campaign to fully support creation of a full time paid NUS Trans Officer and an autonomous NUS Trans Liberation Campaign
2. To support the campaign for the passing of the motion which creates a full time paid NUS trans officer and an autonomous NUS trans liberation campaign at NUS National Conference.

3. For the women's campaign to actively campaign at NUS National conference to support the motion be passed.
4. To fight to ensure that the LGBT+ (women's place) remains.

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
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

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

Motion 501: Here's Looking at you Kid – Campaign for the free childcare for student and staff Parents

Conference believes

1. That some 70% of student carers are women
2. Campus nurseries are unaffordable and out of the way for the majority of student parents
3. In a study conducted by the NUS, 76% of the participants said that they received no childcare funding at all
4. Over 50% of student parents and carers have considered leaving their course due to excess pressure
5. Only 36% of student carers feel able to balance commitments such as family, work, and relationships

Conference further believes

1. That student parents have a right to study without being overburden of child care accessibility and fees
2. That all staff including support staff such as cleaners should be entitled free childcare as well
3. Access to childcare on campus should be free or at least heavily subsidised, and ought to be more flexible.
4. That NUS Women's Campaign ought to organise and run a nationwide campaign demanding and lobbying universities to support student parents in meeting their childcare needs. This support should

be of both a financial and academic nature (i.e. being flexible to student parent's needs and timetables and not requiring commitment for a child to be in full time childcare).

5. Add "and colleges" after "lobbying universities"
6. That the funding situation across England and the devolved nations differs vastly – for example, student parents in English colleges can receive funding from the Care2Learn scheme, whereas students in Wales have to rely solely on the discretionary Financial Contingency Fund.
7. That the benefits of free universal childcare to a society outweigh the costs, and that such a system would particularly benefit low-income families and women, who undertake the vast majority of unpaid caring responsibilities.

Conference resolves

1. To work with feminist societies and student unions to campaign for free crèches for student and staff parents
2. To set up a national campaign for free childcare that includes, but is not limited to, lobbying universities, organising protests and using direct action as occupations, sit-ins.
3. To undertake provide research for student unions and FemSocs.
4. That any campaign covering a devolved area such as childcare must take into account the differing landscapes across the entire UK (and be inclusive of further Education), and the National Women's Officer must work with relevant officers in the nations (and FE representatives within NUS.)
5. That students in Scotland must pay on average £400 deposit up front to secure a nursery place.
6. The campaign should also support SUs/SAs to lobby for the removal of nursery place deposits.

Motion 502: My Body, My Choice – Demonstrate Against 'March for Life'

Conference believes

1. Every year a coalition of anti-choice groups hold a march in Birmingham under the banner 'March For Life'. This year they will be marching on Saturday 14th May 2016
2. Last year the University of Birmingham Women's Association and Abortion Rights organised a successful counter demonstration.
3. The pro-choice demonstration was made up of a wide group of people such as students from UoB Women's Association, Abortion Rights, Trade Unionists, and members of the public
4. That British anti-choice groups are starting to use "US-style tactics" , including bullying and intimidation outside abortion clinics
5. 1 in 3 women will have an abortion in their lifetime

Conference further believes

1. That a woman has the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion
2. Access to abortion should be legal, free, and on request
3. That the NUS Women's Campaign must join the fight to protect the Right to Choose through a variety of means including: lobbying, campaigning, and radical direct action

Conference resolves

1. To support the counter demonstration opposing the March for Life in 2016 and in future years
2. To issue a statement condemning March for Life
3. To mobilise students from different campuses to get to the counter demonstration by doing things such as, but not limited to: working with women's officers, feminist societies, and student unions to put on coaches; and promoting the event online and when visiting campuses.
4. The NUS Women's Officer and Committee to liaise with UoB's Women's Officer and the UoB Women's Association and Abortion Rights.
5. That NUS Women's Campaign affiliates to Abortion Rights and work with them on other campaigns surrounding students' right to choose.
6. To produce materials such as, but not limited to, placards, flyers, stickers, and a call out with the slogan "My body, my choice".
7. That NUS Women's Campaign will have representatives (ideally the Women's Officer and Committee) and a banner at the demonstration

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 504: #StandByMe - Supporting Student Survivors

Conference believes

1. 1 in 7 women students (14%) has been the victim of serious sexual assault or serious physical violence while at university or college.
2. The NUS Lad Culture Audit report revealed that there is a lack of clarity around the complaints and disciplinary procedures in universities across the country.
3. In the NUS 2015 Lad Culture and sexism survey 61% of students stated that they were not made aware of any codes of conduct and 66% stated they were not aware of the procedure to report these incidents.
4. The Zellick Report was created in 1994 to give guidance to universities about how to deal with sexual assault cases. It tells universities not to investigate cases and not to go through disciplinary procedures until the victim has reported the incident to the police.
5. Evidence shows that 82% of rapes are never reported to the police and of these, only 1 in 5 result in court proceedings. For the few cases which do enter the court system, the average length of the court process is 1 year and 4 months from report to verdict.
6. NUS launched the #StandByMe campaign which calls for the repeal of the Zellick guidelines and for a public consultation which listens to the student movement and specialist services in order to develop new reporting and disciplinary and survivor support guidelines.
7. Support services for victims and survivors of sexual violence are facing significant funding shortfalls.

Conference further believes

1. The quality of university reporting procedures and support services across the UK are inconsistent and inadequate and are not well understood by students.
2. The Zellick report is out of date and needs to be revised to take into account developments in our understanding of sexual violence and to incorporate equality legislation.
3. Universities should have accessible reporting procedures for sexual assault which are well promoted and provide access to specialist support for victims during their time at university.
4. Rape Crisis Centres provide vital support services for victims and survivors of sexual assault. The cuts to Rape Crisis centres and other support services are fatal and we are significantly concerned that support for survivors of sexual violence is becoming rapidly non-existent without sufficient Government funding.

Conference resolves

1. To continue to run the #StandByMe campaign calling for better support for all victims and survivors on campus and sustainable funding for specialist support services across the country.

2. To call for the repeal of the Zellick guidelines and for a public consultation to develop new reporting and disciplinary guidelines and survivor support.
3. To assist Students' Unions in lobbying their Vice Chancellors and principals to support to call for change on campuses and at a national level.
4. To help Students' Unions to form partnerships with local rape crisis centres and other local support services for victims and survivors of sexual violence.
5. To support and encourage Student Unions, femsocs, and women's officers in campaigning against cuts to survivors support services on campuses and in their communities.
6. To approach Sisters Uncut to hold a national speaker/workshop tour on using direct action to save survivor support services which is funded by NUS.
7. To coordinate a day of action against these services being cut on the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25th November 2016.
8. To organise some direct action for the Women's Campaign on this day as well which can be the national focal point.

Motion 505: End Detention Centres

Conference believes

1. The death of Ugandan Lesbian, Movement for Justice member and Freedom Fighter Jackie Nanyonjo who was severely beaten by Guards deporting her to Uganda where she died of her injuries.
2. UK International Students face continual racism.
3. All three main UK political parties have recently stepped up their anti-immigrant rhetoric.
4. The current Movement For Justice campaign of public hearings putting the UKBA, Home Office and UK Government on trial for racism, sexism, homophobia, brutality, torture and murder.
5. New legislation has been released making university compliance with Prevent obligatory, and students, especially international students, and BME students, are at risk at being reported to the Home Office and UKBA for supposed "extremist views."
6. Women in detention centres are at risk of sexual assault, and at Yarl's Wood detention centre, it was reported that women were being pressured into sexual acts for assurances on their immigration status.

Conference further believes

1. A culture of rape and sexual coercion is never acceptable, regardless of the legal status of the women involved, whether they are a woman of colour, or their religion.
2. Universities should be spaces where students are able to express themselves without fear of detention or persecution by the government.
3. Universities are using their status as Visa sponsors to victimise women of colour scholars if they criticise their institutions – for example the cases of Justice 4 Sanaz and Dr Casey Briezna.

Conference resolves

1. Work with Movement for Justice to host public hearings on campuses throughout the UK, putting the UKBA, The Home Office and UK Government on trial, hearing witness testimony from those freedom fighters, asylum seekers. Refugees, immigrants, migrant workers, international students and all those who have experienced the structural oppressions, brutality and harassment of the UKBA, The Home Office and their political backers.
2. Make it widely and publicly known that we believe the only just sentence on the question of immigration is ending detention, demand the release of all detainees now, stop the deportations, demand that the borders be opened and that people be able to travel freely. We say grant ALL those who want it, full citizenship rights NOW.
3. Sign onto the Movement for Justice Submission to The Home Affairs Committee inquiry into UK's Asylum system.
4. Continue to campaign against G4S' role in detention centres, alongside their other human rights abuses, as well as condemning the rape culture within detention centres.
5. Condemn British University's complicity with the UKBA, especially in regards to victimising women of colour scholars.
6. For the Women's campaign to support the NUS Black students' campaign in preventing PREVENT.

Motion 506: Abortions for all!

Conference believes

1. While the 1967 Abortion Act legalised abortion under certain circumstances in England, Scotland, and Wales, abortion is still a criminal offence under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act.
2. The 1967 Abortion Act does not extend to Northern Ireland.
3. The wording of the 1967 Abortion Act is vague and open to interpretation by individual doctors, meaning that the provision of abortion across Great Britain may not be equal.
4. The 1967 Abortion Act was first amended in 1990 by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, which lowered the time-limit for legal abortion from 28 to 24 weeks.
5. In subsequent years, further attacks on the 1967 Abortion Act have been made. Attacks on a person's right to choose have included attempts to reduce the legal time limit for abortion and specifically ban sex-selective abortion.
6. Attacks on a person's right to choose have also come from an increased number of anti-choice protestors and pickets of abortion clinics in recent years. As of writing, at least one abortion clinic in the UK has been forced to close as a result of protests

Conference further believes

1. A person's right to choose is a fundamental right.
2. Despite rulings that the total ban on abortion in Northern Ireland is a breach of international human rights legislation, leaders in Northern Ireland are still staunchly opposed to the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to cover Northern Ireland, and in January 2016, a woman in Northern Ireland faced prosecution for procuring abortion pills.

3. The situation for people in Northern Ireland is exacerbated by the fact that people in Northern Ireland are not entitled to free abortions on the NHS. The cost of travelling to a private clinic in England can be anywhere from £400 to £2,000.
4. That we not only need to focus on defending our right to choice – we also need to be campaigning for the extension of a guaranteed right to choose for every person in UK, including those in Northern Ireland.
5. That there also many broader issues connected to reproductive freedoms and the ability and right to choose, including access to and the content of sex and relationships education, childcare, benefits and public services.

Conference resolves

1. To demand for the complete decriminalisation of abortion across the UK, including in Northern Ireland.
2. To demand that abortion be available on demand, without the ability of doctors to veto the procedure, as early as possible, as late as necessary, and free and publicly provided for all.
3. To organise a high-profile, and public campaign around these demands.
4. To continue working with specialist organisations to provide training to women's officers and student feminists around the country to help them defeat anti-choice groups on campus and support abortion providers in their area.

Motion 507: Women and Interfaith

Conference believes

1. Historically, Muslim women have been side-lined in feminist narratives
2. Fascism, including (but not limited to) Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, is on the rise.
3. We need to protect the interest of women from religious minorities
4. Minority women are less likely to go for leadership roles
5. There are a lack of services and provisions (in the form of training sessions and workshops) for religious minority women

Conference further believes

1. Islamophobic attacks in London against "visibly" Muslim women have risen by 300 per cent .
2. Cameron's initiative to introduce language classes for Muslim women is fundamentally racialised .
3. In specific feminist circles, Muslim women (and by extension, other religious minorities) are often side-lined, derailed and painted as individuals with no autonomy
4. A large majority Muslim women students - and by extension, other religious minority women - have become disenfranchised with feminist politics and mainstream politics as a whole
5. The NUS programme 'I Will… Lead the Way', seeks to increase the number of women in elected leadership positions within the student movement, is having a real and lasting impact on women students.

6. The NUS Women's Campaign has policy that prioritises 'I Will… Lead the Way' having a particular focus on 'providing black, LGBT and disabled women with coaches' (Women in Leadership, 2014).
7. That this year we have seen anti-Semitic rhetoric and attacks on Jewish students across social media, our institutions, and the student movement – often leaving Jewish women feeling ostracised and unwelcome.
8. That women of every faith may face different barriers and the NUS Women's Campaign interfaith work should aim to address as many as possible

Conference resolves

1. To support safe spaces for religious minorities - in particular, women from religious minorities
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to regularly pilot - and extend -workshops, training sessions and conferences such as 'I Will…Lead the Way' specifically catered for Muslim Women and other religious minorities
3. To carry out a large scale research project into Muslim women's experiences of Islamophobia in and outside educational settings – lectures, seminars, labs and other research environments
4. 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
5. 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
6. To mandate NUS Women's Campaign to offer further initiatives to reach out to women from religious minorities.
7. That when caucuses are held for women of intersecting identities at Women's Campaign events, every effort should be made to ensure that women of faith also receive the opportunity to organise and discuss the discrimination they face in a safe space.

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 like 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
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 care[1][2]

Motion 509: NUS get behind our women's officers!

Conference believes

1. That before Christmas several women activists including the women's officer at the university of York were subject to extreme abuse on social media by a high profile anti-feminist journalist
2. That woman's officers and feminist activists frequently get abuse for campaigns etc.

Conference further believes

[1] https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/b/black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-bame-communities
[2] http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Blackhealth/Pages/Mentalhealth.aspx

1. Women's Officers should be protected from online hate crime and abuse.
2. There should be a support network available for Women's Officers that experience online hate crime and abuse.
3. NUS should provide legal and emotional support for Women's Officers who experience this as well as liaise with their SU's and AU's if such actions lead to a disruption of their studies.
4. Women's Officers should not be left alone to deal with online abuse.

Conference resolves

1. A support network for Women's Officers will be established prior to the next academic year.
2. Plans will be put in place of how to liaise with SU's and AU's as well as any legal action that may be required.

Motion 510: Accessibility at Campus Events

Conference believes

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

Zone: Rules Revision

Motion 602: Reserved Spaces on NUS Women's Steering Committee

Delete:

200 NUS Women's Steering Committee

Membership of the Steering Committee

201 The composition of the Steering Committee shall be five Individual Members, elected at Conference.

202 Steering Committee may co-opt non-voting additional advisors to the Steering Committee in the event that further assistance is needed between conferences.

Replace with:

200 NUS Women's Steering Committee

Membership of the Steering Committee

201 The composition of the Steering Committee shall be five Individual Members, elected at Conference. One of these spaces will be reserved for a self-defining Black woman. One of these spaces will be reserved for a self-defining woman who also defines as LGBT, disabled, Black, or has caring responsibilities.

202 Steering Committee may co-opt non-voting additional advisors to the Steering Committee in the event that further assistance is needed between conferences.

Motion 603: Emergency Motions

Delete:

Emergency Motions

368 Emergency Motions may be submitted by a Constituent Member or the Women's Campaign Committee in writing to the Steering Committee. The closing date shall not less than two weeks before Conference begins. The Steering Committee shall rule out any emergency motion of more than 300 words. Emergency motions must be submitted three times and signed by the appropriate Executive Officer of the Constituent Member concerned or member of the Women's Campaign Committee.

368 An emergency motion is one whose substance concerns events occurring after the latest date for the submission of ordinary motions for discussion of the forthcoming meeting of the Conference. No motion is an emergency unless the present work of NUS Women's Campaign would be severely impaired by the failure of the forthcoming meeting of Conference to discuss the issue.

369 The Steering Committee shall rule in the first instance on whether any proposed emergency motion is in fact an emergency motion.

370 The Steering Committee shall draft all submissions into a composited motion and amendments to it for each subject. The Steering Committee shall publish the policy headings to the Conference.

371 A priority ballot shall then be held. The delegation of each Constituent Member and the Women's Campaign Committee shall be issued with a form on which to indicate the motions in the order of preference which it wishes to see them discussed. Steering Committee shall count the votes using the single transferable vote system to determine the order.

372 The Steering Committee shall then announce how many motions can be discussed within the time allocated to emergency motions on the Order Paper and shall notify the Conference of its ruling on emergency motions, which shall be discussed in the listed order. Any Constituent Member may object to Steering Committee rulings on emergency motions if the motion in question has been selected for debate in the priorities ballot. The objection shall be sustained if it receives a two-thirds majority of the Conference in its favour.

Replace with:

Emergency Motions

368 Emergency Motions may be submitted by a Constituent Member or the Women's Campaign Committee in writing (this includes email) to the Steering Committee. The closing date shall not be less than two weeks before Conference begins. The Steering Committee shall rule out any emergency motion of more than 300 words. Emergency motions must be authorised by the appropriate Executive Officer of the Constituent Member concerned or member of the Women's Campaign Committee respectively.

An emergency motion is one whose substance concerns events occurring after the latest date for the submission of ordinary motions for discussion of the forthcoming meeting of the Conference. No motion is an emergency unless the present work of NUS Women's Campaign would be severely impaired by the failure of the forthcoming meeting of Conference to discuss the issue.

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372 The Steering Committee shall then announce how many motions can be discussed within the time allocated to emergency motions on the Order Paper and shall notify the Conference of its ruling on emergency motions, which shall be discussed in the listed order. Any Constituent Member may object to Steering Committee rulings on emergency motions if the motion in question has not been selected for debate in the priorities ballot. The objection shall be sustained if it receives a two-thirds majority of the Conference in its favour.

Motion 604: Speaking Accessibility

Conference believes

1. Speaking at the front of conference can cause anxiety

Conference further believes

1. Speaking in a pair or a group can reduce this anxiety
2. Conference should be as assessable as possible

Motion 605: Changing the Format of Motions

Conference believes

1. That motions to NUS Women's Conference currently follow the format "Conference believes...Conference further believes...Conference resolves"
2. That "Conference believes" is used to state facts relating to the motion, "Conference further believes" is used to state reasons for the motion and "Conference resolves" is used to state the action that will be taken as a result of the motion.
3. That most delegates to NUS Women's Conference come from Students' Unions where the general format is "This Union Notes...This Union believes...This Union resolves", where "This Union Notes" is used to state facts relating to the motion and "This Union believes" is used to state reasons for the motion and "This Union resolves" is used to state the action that will be taken as a result of the motion.

Conference further believes

1. That it makes more sense to use "Conference Notes" to state facts relating to the motion and to use "Conference believes" to state reasons for the motion.
2. That the discrepancy in the wording of motions between Students' Unions and NUS Women's Conference causes unnecessary confusion for delegates writing motions for NUS Women's Conference
3. That NUS Women's conference should be as accessible as possible and this should be represented in our democratic methods.

Conference resolves

1. To change the wording of our motions to "Conference Notes...Conference believes...Conference resolves"

Motion 606: Queer Representation on Women's Committee

Conference believes

1. Queer is an umbrella term that is used to refer to the entire LGBT+ community
2. Queer is also used as an alternative to labels and categories such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans etc. to "queer" the idea of categorisation.
3. Some women who define as Queer do not define as LGBT+.
4. Queer women face specific discrimination through a combination of sexism and queerphobia.
5. The NUS Women's Campaign Committee does not currently have a queer rep.
6. The composition of the current committee is as follows:
7. The Officer of the Campaign with voting rights, elected at Conference as Chair
8. Women's Campaign representative on the NEC with voting rights, elected at Conference
9. Up to 12 Individual Members with voting rights, elected at Conference and from caucuses:
10. Four Open places
11. One Bisexual representative
12. One Lesbian representative
13. One Trans representative
14. One further Education representative
15. One Black Students' representative
16. One Disabled Students' representative
17. One representative with caring responsibility
18. One international representative
19. The Women's Officers for each of the nations; Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with voting rights
20. 102 In addition any Women on the NEC may be invited to attend Committee meetings as observers with speaking rights only.

Conference further believes

1. Queer women who do not self-define as LGBT+ deserve a place on the NUS Women's Committee.
2. Women's campaign should actively challenge queerphobia within our own structures and in wider society.

Conference resolves

1. To change the composition of the committee to include a queer rep.

Policy Lapse

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.
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
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

Motion 12: Negative perceptions of Black women - No to skin bleaching

Conference believes

1. Some Black women use skin lightening and bleaching products.

2. Skin bleaching promotes low self-esteem and is left behind from the colonialist and racist idea that the 'whiter' you are the better you are.
3. In order to move forward Black women must see themselves in a more positive light which is the responsibility of all women.
4. Skin lightening can be damaging to health, causing sensitivity to sunlight, scarring and serious post-operation problems.
5. The products are very expensive and aimed at an already economically disadvantaged community.
6. Women are already targeted by the media to aspire to unbelievable images of beauty, for Black women these pressures far exceed what is naturally possible.
7. All women are beautiful and Black women should not be made to feel like the ideal of beauty is lighter or white skin.

Conference further believes

1. There are women's magazines that advertise these products openly. E.g Asian Woman and Pride.
2. There are hair and beauty shops sell these products and some extra strength versions, with ingredients such as hydroquinone or mercury which are banned in the UK and so sold illegally under the counter.
3. Black women are the largest consumers of beauty products. Mintel estimates sales of ethnic cosmetics, skincare and hair care to be £65 million in 2007 representing growth of 24% since 2002.
4. The CEO's of these companies are usually white and are benefiting from Black self-hatred.

Conference resolves

1. Support the Black is Beautiful Campaign
2. Challenge publications that promote skin bleaching.
3. Actively promote positive ideas about dark skin.
4. Lobby publications aimed at women to be inclusive of and positive about Black Women

Motion 301: Defend and extend Abortion Rights

Conference believes

1. That there are a number of threats to abortion rights:
2. The threat of legislative attacks, with the tacit and not so tacit encouragement of the Conservative leadership;
3. The increased activity of activist anti-choice groups, particularly street activity targeting abortion clinics;
4. The effect of the progressive dismantling of the NHS on free, public access to abortion.
5. That there also many broader issues connected to reproductive freedoms and the ability and right of women to choose, including access to and the content of sex and relationships education, childcare, benefits and public services.

Conference further believes

1. That the fight to defend abortion rights is one of the crucial frontlines of women's liberation struggle, both because of the increased activity of anti-choice groups and because so many feminists, particularly student feminists, are active in the fight.
2. That we should step up our activity on this issue.
3. That in addition to defending the rights we have, we need to demand a genuine, guaranteed right to choose, which currently does not exist in Britain.
4. We need build solidarity with our sisters in both parts of Ireland, as shown by the death of Savita Halappanavar last October.

Conference resolves

1. To demand every woman's right to choose to have an abortion on demand, without the consent of anyone else, as early as possible, as late as necessary and free and publicly provided.
2. To develop a charter of demands for reproductive freedom covering abortion rights, childcare, SRE, benefits and public services.
3. To organise a national pro-choice speaking tour.
4. To organise training across the country on challenging anti-choice street mobilisations.
5. To organise a conference bringing together student feminists from all parts of Britain and Ireland to discuss fighting for abortion rights and reproductive freedoms.
6. To *ca*ll on all other parts of NUS to adopt strong pro-choice policies.

Motion 303: Take Back the Night Bus! Tackling Street Harassment

Conference believes

1. In May 2012, End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW), commissioned a YouGov opinion poll asking women about their experience of sexual harassment. 43% of 18-34 year old women in London experienced sexual harassment in public spaces, and that twice many women in London as men said they do not feel safe using London public transport at all times of day and night
2. Research done by Hollaback! evidences that 75% of all reported public sexual harassment involves a woman target and male perpetrator & 16% occur on public transport
3. According to NUS Hidden Marks report, 16% of women students have experienced unwanted sexual contact during their time as a student, the majority of which has been public
4. In February 2012, Collective Action for Safe Spaces, a Washington feminist group, began a campaign for the Washington Transit Authority (WMATA) to implement policy to address sexual harassment on the metro rail system. In April 2012, WMATA introduced a campaign to combat sexual harassment of customers that places blame on perpetrators & provides information on what constitutes sexual harassment and how to report incidences to the police. By September 2012, over 70 cases have been brought to WMATA's attention.

5. In 2010, Lambeth introduced a "Know the Difference" campaign & developed a range of publicity materials distributed across the borough, explaining the difference between flirting and crossing the line to harassment. Reports of sexual offences in the borough have dropped by 30%
6. That women students face sexual harassment in all different environments as a daily reality
7. That public spaces are a place where women experience sexual harassment
8. That this harassment can be intimidating and rage inducing
9. That it can be difficult to know how to react to being harassed in public spaces
10. That although our Zero Tolerance Policies exist in Students' Unions they do not apply to other public spaces
11. That gender is not covered by hate crime legislation and so harassment of this kind is usually not illegal (depending on its severity under existing laws).

Conference further believes

1. Street harassment reinforces ubiquitous sexual objectification of women in everyday life. Public sexual harassment and assault can include vulgar remarks, heckling, insults, innuendo, stalking, leering, touching, fondling, indecent exposure and other forms of public humiliation.
2. Street harassment can manifest in various different ways depending on how women are read by offenders. Black, LBT and disabled women are devalued not only as women, but as combinations of other oppressions.
3. Street harassment is a complex issue and tackling it requires a multifaceted approach. Groups like CASS provide strategic, community-driven solutions to address issues that impact on the willingness of women to report these crimes & Lambeth's "Know the Difference" evidences how effective targeting information at perpetrators of sexual harassment can be
4. The NUS Hidden Marks provides a useful base for further research into public sexual harassment and harassment on public transport
5. That the fact we are shouted at, leered at, beeped at, groped, touched, followed and flashed in public spaces is just another reflection of the position of women in our society
6. That it is NEVER a compliment
7. That this behaviour should be considered on the spectrum of sexual violence
8. That there needs to be a revolution in attitudes and behaviours, particularly in the men who perpetrate this aggression, for the situation to change
9. That public sexual harassment is often ignored and not taken seriously by police and wider society

Conference resolves

1. To commission a literature review and research into women students' experiences of street harassment, including public transport.
2. To form a Women's Safe Transport Action Group consisting of the NUS Women's Committee, Women's Reps from other Liberation campaigns, & interested Students' Unions groups to develop local campaigns across the 2012/13 academic year, utilising the best practice of successful campaigns such as CASS and Lambeth Council.

3. To use the results of this work to produce a toolkit to aid other Unions to start their own campaigns.
4. To use the results of successful local Students' Union campaigns to lobby Government and public transport providers to roll out campaigns on a national basis.
5. To work with Hollaback! to campaign against street sexual harassment.
6. To lobby the police to take street harassment seriously.
7. To seek a change in the law to make street harassment illegal.
8. To educate students about the problem of street sexual harassment.

Motion 402: Black Women's Sub Committee

Conference believes

1. 9.8% of home students in the UK are Black women
2. White women are 22% more likely to go on to FE or HE than their black counterparts
3. There is currently only one reserved place on women's committee for a black student, who is expected to represent all Black Women.
4. Black women face a "stacking" of oppressions when having to face sexism and racism.

Conference further believes

1. There is a wide range of varying issues faced by Black women from different backgrounds.
2. To expect one Black rep to represent all Black women from across FE and HE is a huge task.
3. Many first time black women delegates are less likely to run for women's committee than their white counterparts.
4. The women's movement has historically been very dominated by white women, and this needs to be recognised and changed.

Conference resolves

1. To create a Black Women's sub-committee to be made up of 3 Black women elected at women's conference and 1 elected at Black students conference.
2. That this sub-committee would increase representation of Black women on the committee as a whole.
3. That the sub-committee would be a safe space for issues facing all Black women to be discussed on a regular basis ready for the Black women's rep to bring to women's committee
4. The committee would meet in person twice a year and be granted the funding to do so, on other times would Skype.

Motion 404: Women's Officers

Conference believes

1. That Women's Officers, particularly full-time women's officers, continue to face hostility in their students unions from both staff and students
2. That significant numbers of students still do not understand the reasons for having a Women's Officer
3. That sabbatical officer teams are still dominated by men

4. NUS Women's Conference has a number of active policies which recognise the continued attack on Women's Officers - both sabbatical and non-sabbatical - throughout the movement, including the scrapping of Women's Officers in favour of Equalities Officers and in some instances the creation of Men's Officers
5. 5, NUS Women's Conference 2012 resolved to launch a priority campaign of "A Women's Officer in Every Union"
6. NUS Women's Conference 2012 passed policy on "Winning Women's Representation", recognising that "women's officers elected by and accountable to women [are] vital to women's equality and to overcoming the bigotry, inequality and discrimination we face."
7. That only 6 Unions have paid sabbatical Women's Officers
8. The Education Act 1994 states that "major union office holders" are required to be elected by secret ballot in which all members may vote, leading to many Unions allowing non-women students to vote for their Women's Officer
9. The definition of a "major union office holder" is open to interpretation - Some Unions, including Cambridge, recognise that the definition of major and minor posts is a pragmatic one, and have successfully protected women's only voting for their sabbatical Women's Officer
10. Motions have already been brought at Stirling SU to replace the role of Women's Officer with a 'Gender Equality Officer' - despite falling, there is continued dialogue about future attempts to the same end
11. Large sections of society do not see the necessity for a continued Women's Movement - hence the non-existence of a long-established Women's Officer and/or Women's Group in many Sus
12. The deliberate misrepresentation of feminism is a device used to further the patriarchal oppression of women.

Conference further believes

1. That anti-women groups (who have no interest in liberation), calling for the removal of the position and its replacement with an 'Equality Officer' has contributed to a situation where we have only 6 full-time women's officers in HE Students' Unions in the UK.
2. That Women's Officers are crucial to ensure that women are well represented in our institutions, particularly in the top level decision making process.
3. That although equality officers can do good work, they cannot replace the position of Women's Officer.
4. Women's Officers do not just exist so that women are on Union Executives; they hold political roles with very clear campaigning objectives around women's empowerment, thus it is essential that they are elected by women.
5. Autonomy is absolutely crucial to any liberation campaign. It is essential that we support the right of oppressed and disempowered groups to self-organise, and recognise and champion the rights of women to make their own decisions 16.

6. Retaining paid sabbatical Women's Officers with equal responsibilities and powers to other sabbatical officers is essential; the Women's Officer role should not have to be compromised in order to allow women's only voting.
7. Education & charity law should not be used as an excuse to shut women out
8. Compulsory women's representation in the democratic structures of SUs needs to be extended to those SUs where it does not exist and defended where it does - Women's Officers are essential
9. 'Gender Equality' does not yet exist and can only be achieved via women's liberation. Creating an officer role for something which does not exist not only takes the emphasis away from the Women's Movement, but opens the door for men to hold power over what should be the Women's Campaign.
10. Lad Culture and societal sexism often account for the 'fear' or 'discomfort' many people have in associating themselves with the Women's Movement and Feminism - 'Gender Equality' is a 'cuddlier' term, but it completely removes women from the centre of the campaign (and the name), thus perpetuating patriarchy in itself.

Conference resolves

1. To launch a priority campaign of "A Women's Officer in Every Union", as passed by NUS Women's Conference 2012.
2. To mandate the Women's Officer to work with Students' Unions who have successfully protected women's only voting for full time sabbatical officers in order to produce best practice documentation by the end of 2013.
3. To mandate the Women's Officer to seek professional legal support to explore the options for women's only voting for full time sabbatical Women's Officers under current education, charities & equality law by the end of 2013.
4. To mandate the Women's Officer and NUS Women's Campaign to produce a toolkit drawn from Union best practice and professional legal advice on winning the arguments for women's only voting, specifically addressing the issues raised by the Education Act 1994 by the end of 2013.
5. To provide this support not only to Unions with sabbatical Women's Officers, but to all Unions seeking to protect their existing women's representation, or indeed develop it, and provide women's groups on campus with support to win these arguments.
6. To educate students about the need for Women's Officers.
7. To educate staff in students' unions about the need for women's representation.
8. To support Women’s Officers, particularly full -time women's officers, whose positions come under attack.
9. The National Women's Committee to assist all NUS affiliated SUs currently without the Women's Officer role in creating and maintaining this role, with the goal of having a Women's Officer in every affiliated SU by the end of the 2013/14 academic year.
10. The National Women's Committee to create a toolkit for all Women's Officers which equips them with the knowledge, practical support and advice on how to effectively challenge and quash suggestions of 'Gender Equality Officer' roles being created. The toolkit should also provide information on how best

to create and/or maintain a strong Women's Campaign on campus - challenging a continued deluge of misplaced moral outrage and misogyny can prove tough, even for the most seasoned of campaigners.

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