

One Day Without Us

On 20 February 2017 people across the UK will come together for **'One Day Without Us'**, a day of action to celebrate the contribution of migrants, demonstrate opposition to Trump's policies, Theresa May's willingness to work with him and to fight against the never ending anti-immigrant policies of this government.

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Over the course of the EU Referendum campaign and the US Presidential Election campaigns last year, we saw the scapegoating of migrants by politicians reach new depths; demonising migrants and undermining the contributions they make to their host countries.

Whether through economic contributions, or of the kind that cannot be measured - by making our society a vibrant and diverse one and bringing in a wide range of experiences and perspectives - immigrants have long-contributed to the UK, including migrant students.

There has been a rise in hate-crime by 41 per cent after the Brexit referendum, and in the visibility of hate incidents in society. The already worrying climate for migrants has now become intolerable and it is time that the student movement stands in solidarity with all migrants to show that migrants, international students and workers are welcome here.

International students (both overseas and EU) are a crucial part of our colleges and universities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. International students contribute hugely to the diversity of our campuses and wider society. Their input of £7.1

billion a year is crucial not only for the sector, but creates thousands of jobs across the UK.

On 20 February 2017, a day of action has been organised, [One Day Without Us](#), to celebrate the contribution of migrants to the UK and to fight against the never ending anti-immigrant policies of the government. This day will coincide with the UN World Day of Social Justice.

This is also the day the Donald Trump's state visit to the UK will be discussed in parliament, thanks to the [petition](#) which received almost 2 million signatures.

Why is this so important?

Our International Students make up 20 per cent of the student population. International students have existed as part of the UK education system for hundreds of years and have carved a place on our campuses that cannot be replaced. Furthermore, there are countless international researchers and academics that make vital contributions to the world-leading British education system.

International students make up 40 per cent of net migration into the UK, constituting a significant and important amount of migrant communities. Everything that is felt by migrant communities hits international students too.

Their experiences are overlapping and anti-immigrant language that becomes more widespread every day affects our classmates as well as other migrants in our communities.

Migration is an important part of British society, and makes up the social fabric of our communities. So many people you come across in your daily life are migrants, whether they are your doctor or nurse at the NHS or the barista at the coffee shop, the UK benefits from the labour of many migrants.

The language that we see used around immigration lately is creating a xenophobic and hostile environment for many, further marginalising and targeting some of the most vulnerable people in our society and our student communities.

On this day, there will be numerous actions taking place across the country, not only to show solidarity with migrants but to show opposition to the hateful rhetoric which has become so mainstream in the political discourse due to the election of Donald Trump as the US president. The anger that exists amongst students has to be harnessed to ensure we can demonstrate the widespread opposition to Trump's policies and Theresa May's complicity.

What can you do?

Here are some suggestions for you to be able to make the day of action a successful one. Pick what would work best at your campus or come up with your own creative actions.

- **Organise mass walk outs from lectures and classes at 11AM**
- Take a motion to your Union General Meeting(UGM)/Council/All Students Meeting for your Student Union/Association to fully support and provide resources to the One Day Without Us initiative.
- Get in touch with your local University College Union (UCU) and ask them to support the action and work with you to develop a plan of action for the day.
- Tweet on the hashtags #1DayWithoutUs and #StudentsForMigrants throughout the build up to the action and on the day.

- Contact your local and student-run news outlets and tell them about the day and your plans for the day and ask them to cover the day's events.
- Host organising meetings with international students, students who are concerned about the anti-migrant atmosphere and supportive academics and local activist groups in the build-up to the day.
- Contact neighbouring colleges and universities to see if they want to run the events of the day jointly with you.
- If you have a Student Action for Refugees (STAR) society, Movement for Justice (MFJ) society or any other relevant societies, encourage them to be part of organising the day of action.
- Raise awareness amongst students through exhibitions, panel discussions and lectures.
- Ensure academics and lecturers mention the day to their students. Working with UCU is the best way to achieve this.
- Send a letter/email/tweet to your local MP and/or a member of House of Lords that has links to your institution telling them about One Day Without Us and ask them to lobby for the rights of International Students and migrants. You can invite them to attend whatever action you organise on the day.
- Arrange a meeting with your Vice Chancellor/Principal to establish their views on immigration policies and the experiences of international students and get them to support the day of action.
- Organise a banner drop or flash mob on your campus/in your city to make more people aware of what will be happening on the day.
- [Download posters](#) to print
- Invite speakers to address students and academics who have walked out of classes at a central point of campus.
- Hold picket lines at entrances of different campus buildings, distributing flyers and explaining what the day is.

More information

[Student Walkout Facebook Event](#)

[One Day Without Us website](#)

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[Download posters](#)