

  
**nus**  
**NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**

# Society and Citizenship Zone Live Policy 2017-20

If you need this document in another  
format contact NUS on 0845 5210 262  
or email [events@nus.org.uk](mailto:events@nus.org.uk)





# Key information

## Purpose of this document

This document contains all the policy currently in effect for the Society and Citizenship Zone. This is the policy that the Vice-President Society and Citizenship and the Society and Citizenship Zone Committees are responsible for implementing and is sometime known as 'Live Policy'.

## Policy Lapse

### Policy Lapses in 2 circumstances:

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

Policy passed at National Conference 2017 will lapse at the end of National Conference 2020.

## What You Need To Do

If you are considering submitting policy to National Conference you should first check whether any policy is currently 'live' for that issue and whether you need to change the National Union's current stance on that area of work.

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk).

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# Society and Citizenship Zone policy passed at National Conference 2017

## Motion 501: Brexit means Brexit or so we're told

### Conference believes

1. NUS is a member of the European Students' Union.
2. 25,000 UK students studied or undertook work placements in the EU as part of the Erasmus scheme in 2015/16; since 2014 Erasmus+ has included UK school students, volunteers and apprentices and invests nearly £100 million each year into UK mobility in Europe .
3. Hate crime in the UK surged in the aftermath of the EU vote, up 58% in July 2016 alone
4. This hate crime affected both EU and non-EU nationals, as well as people of colour more broadly
5. That while the Brexit vote left the futures of EU migrants uncertain, it has also caused damage and violence to non-EU migrants and communities of colour
6. European, ERASMUS and International students play a valuable part of our HE and FE institutions.
7. All students, regardless of European identity, can be and have been subject to racism and/or xenophobia in light of Brexit.
8. That around 73% of 16-24 year olds voted to stay in the EU.
9. The EU provides around £1bn/year<sup>2</sup> to UK universities in research grants.
10. That the United Kingdom voted in a majority to leave the European Union;
11. That Northern Ireland and Scotland both voted to Remain, whilst England and Wales voted to Leave;
12. That the European Union currently provides a number of rights for disabled people;
13. Theresa May's hard Brexit proposal would bring about enormous cuts to education – 15% of UK university funding currently comes from the EU. A hard Brexit means this funding will be lost and the implications for Higher Education will be extremely damaging: entire institutions may be shut down, courses and departments slashed, the number of student places cut, jobs cut and there is a real threat that tuition fees will be increased once again in a bid to close the huge funding gap that would be created.
14. Membership of the Single-Market provides massive economic benefits to the UK through allowing for UK trade with the EU to be free from tariffs and many non-tariff and regulatory barriers.
15. Britain owes much of its working rights, workplace and environmental regulations to its participation in the European Union.
16. As set down by the precedent of the Supreme Court ruling, it is important for Parliament to be involved in negotiations and for the government to report on its withdrawal negotiations regularly to Parliament.
17. If Theresa May's Tory hard Brexit goes ahead the UK will be ripped out of the Single Market, the Customs Union, the European Court of Justice and freedom of movement will be ended. This hard Brexit would cause serious damage to the UK's economy and society for generations to come if it goes ahead, making the majority of the population much poorer.

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18. The UK needs to remain in the European Single Market as it is of enormous economic value to the UK. The alternative to remaining in the European Single Market, is a trade deal with Donald Trump, where he will put 'America first' and not the job prospects and living standards of the UK's population.
  19. Theresa May's threat that the UK will leave the EU Single Market has already prompted major companies to announced that they will be moving thousands of jobs to other countries.
  20. The outcome of the EU Referendum was also in part caused by the fact that the major remain campaigns inadequately explained the genuine causes of and solutions (such as those outlined above) to the problems many people experience. As such, it did not properly challenge the narrative of many arguing for Brexit.
  21. In recent years, the government scrapped the post-study work visa, introduced NHS charges for non-EU students and deported tens of thousands of international students.
  22. Often the response by Vice-Chancellors and sections of the student movement to such attacks is insistence that international students are not migrants and should be treated differently,
  23. The arguments often emphasise how much international students contribute to the British economy by "funding our universities" (justifying sky-high fees) or emphasise the differences between students and migrant workers instead of challenging prejudice against both.
  24. We must continue to defend free movement without shame, compromise or capitulation."The recent slide into anti-immigration, anti-free-movement politics by even some people on the left, including the Labour Party left.

### **Conference further believes**

1. The EU has not only enabled the free movement of millions of people across national borders and facilitated cultural exchange, but has done so while protecting their rights within the countries they travel to.
2. The UK's membership of the EU enables over 140,000 students to travel for study between the UK and Europe each year, which enhances the educational and cultural diversity of our colleges and universities as well as the educational experiences of the students who travel.
3. We must fight the idea that the problem is "Europe". We oppose the re-raising of national barriers. We need cross-European campaigns to defend and improve services and rights, and to defend migrants' rights.
4. The UK should remain a cooperative partner with EU countries and always seek to promote universal human rights, peace, stability and free movement within the EU and around the world.
5. That as students our future is at risk by the vote to leave European Union.
6. That NUS should work to defend students from a right-wing hard Brexit.
7. Free movement is not against the interests of working class people. Migrant workers are part of the working class too; our politics of fighting for workers' rights does not respect borders imposed by our rulers. Furthermore, the evidence shows that immigration does not substantially depress pay or conditions.

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8. Restricting immigration will therefore neither help UK-born nor migrant working-class people. Instead, such politics divide students and workers, damaging our ability to organise and fight against the common enemy that is actually responsible for low wages, shortages of housing and jobs, and overstretched public services – the rich and powerful, and the parties and politicians who serve their class interests.
  9. We need to politically combat anti-migrant ideas, and advocate real solutions in their place, not concede the debate to populist misrepresentations.
  10. That attacks on international students and other migrant groups are based on the same racist and xenophobic ideology, and can only be defeated through active solidarity, not creating further divisions.

### **Conference resolves**

1. To assist lobbying efforts to find out what the Government's terms of withdrawal from the European Union are and what "Brexit means Brexit" actually means.
2. To campaign for free movement to remain a key principle of the UK's political engagement with the EU, and to remain in the single market.
3. To work with the European Students' Union to actively lobby Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on issues which will impact students and education.
4. To support Students' Unions to lobby their MPs and the government, calling on them to remove international students from net migration figures.
5. To continue working with the Human Rights Act coalition to publically oppose and campaign against any attempt to repeal the Human Rights Act and replace it with the British Bill of Rights.
6. To lobby the Government to enshrine the preservation and extension of EU environmental protections in UK law after leaving the EU.
7. NUS should organise a campaign to showcase the non-academic benefits of European, ERASMUS and International students.
8. To work with other European focused campaigning youth organisations such as Youth for Europe and Undivided.
9. To work with organisations including Movement for Justice and Anti-Raids Network to support migrants.
10. For the 'Liberate Education' campaign to make central the demand that the UK retains its 15% university funding from the EU.
11. To lobby against the repeal of any European regulations that would water down rights, standards or protections on the environment, consumer protection, competition rules, workers' rights and workplace standards.
12. To vigorously campaign for the UK to remain a member of the EU's Single Market in order to defend jobs, living standards and freedom of movement.
13. To campaign to defend and extend freedom of movement and the right to free, accessible education for everyone, regardless of nationality. Blame not migrants, but the rich and powerful, the ruling class, for the problems facing working class people.

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14. To argue and campaign for a programme of immediate real solutions to the problems facing working class people, including: uniting migrant and British-born workers in trade unions to fight for improved pay and conditions for all; reversing anti-union laws; raising and enforcing the minimum wage; decent housing accessible for all; secure, decently-paid jobs, training and education for everyone; serious taxes on the rich and their businesses in order to redistribute wealth and reverse cuts to welfare and education, fund decent public services and rebuild the NHS.
  15. To fight against any further attacks on international students, including through direct action if necessary.
  16. To challenge the “students are not migrants” approach within the student movement and more broadly on the left, and to fight uncompromisingly against capitulation by the left and the student and trade union movements on migrant rights and free movement.

## **Motion 502 | Placements, Apprenticeships and Education for Good**

### **Conference believes**

1. The NUS-HEA sustainability skills surveys show a clear preference from students for more work-based experiential learning.
2. Many universities now offer paid placements for recent graduates, which helps them with their institutional employability statistics, but many of these placements seem tokenistic.
3. The Apprenticeship Levy starts on 01 April 2017, but there are, as yet, very few apprenticeship standards that relate to sustainability.
4. The TUC has published a new report outlining how the UK can undergo a clean energy transition to create high-quality jobs and secure a major share of the future clean energy industry, which is estimated to be worth \$500bn dollars globally.

### **Conference further believes**

1. The NUS-HEA sustainability skills surveys show a clear preference from students for more work-based experiential learning.
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### **Conference resolves**

1. NUS to work with NSoA and other partners to establish new apprenticeship standards relating to sustainability, that equip students with skills for a low carbon and circular economy.

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2. To use our collective lobbying power to support NSoA in their work with Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) to ensure fair funding for sustainable apprenticeships.
  3. NUS to establish a 'Placements for Good' scheme to sit alongside its Dissertations for Good scheme.
  4. Lobby the IfA to include sustainability as a functional skill alongside literacy and numeracy within apprenticeships.
  5. To collaborate with the National societies in the nations to ensure that this work is carried out in the most appropriate way in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
  6. For NUS to work with TUC on sustainable careers and placement opportunities.
  7. To work with Apprentice Extra, National Society of Apprentices and Trade Unions to facilitate ease of access and promote the benefits of union membership for apprentices and students.

## **Motion 503 | Defend migrants and support free movement**

### **Conference believes**

1. In recent years, the government scrapped the post-study work visa, introduced NHS charges for non-EU students and deported tens of thousands of international students<sup>1</sup>.
2. Often the response by Vice-Chancellors and sections of the student movement to such attacks is insistence that international students are not migrants and should be treated differently<sup>2</sup>,
3. The arguments often emphasise how much international students contribute to the British economy by "funding our universities" (justifying sky-high fees) or emphasise the differences between students and migrant workers instead of challenging prejudice against both.
4. The recent slide into anti-immigration, anti-free-movement politics by even some people on the left, including the Labour Party left.
5. That a sanctuary campus is one that offers protection to migrants and refugees and refuses to cooperate with government attempts to collect data on migrants and/or attempts to deport students
6. That migrants and refugees escaping from conflict have come under increased attack over the last year
7. That the government has increased attention on migrants and refugees to be seen in a negative light
8. That since the EU referendum in June 2016 there has been a spike in hate crime of around 50%<sup>3</sup>
9. That there is a decreasing amount of help and spaces available for migrant and refugee students to receive free help, guidance and protection from this rise in hate crime
10. That the Sanctuary Campus policy being used in the United States has been successful to the protect and stop the reporting and deportation of migrants and refugees in the United States.
11. That the rhetoric around immigration in the UK is toxic, with politicians from all parties lining up to attack migrants
12. That racist campaigns during the Brexit referendum have encouraged a sharp increase of anti-migrant rhetoric and hate crime across the UK.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.workpermit.com/news/uk-tier-1-post-study-work-visa-will-not-be-re-introduced-20160115](http://www.workpermit.com/news/uk-tier-1-post-study-work-visa-will-not-be-re-introduced-20160115) [www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-38876527](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-38876527)  
[www.independent.co.uk/student/news/home-office-s-shocking-treatment-of-international-students-needs-urgent-inquiry-says-nus-a6979146.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/home-office-s-shocking-treatment-of-international-students-needs-urgent-inquiry-says-nus-a6979146.html)

<sup>2</sup> [www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/11053743/Foreign-students-should-not-be-classed-as-immigrants.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/11053743/Foreign-students-should-not-be-classed-as-immigrants.html)

<sup>3</sup> [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38976087](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38976087)

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13. That this situation has been fueled by the government's actions and words.
  14. That the British government continues to aim to bring net migration under an arbitrary 100,000 threshold.
  15. That the British government continues to deport, harass, and criminalises migrants, refugees, and international students.
  16. That the British government canceled the student visas of over 50.000 international students on faulty evidence.
  17. That the British government has announced a new cap on the number of Syrian refugee minors it will accept.
  18. That the British government continues to refuse to offer free access to FE for unaccompanied migrant minors
  19. That the British government has built a wall in Calais alongside its French counterpart, instead of offering sanctuary to migrants fleeing war, poverty, and persecution.
  20. That across Europe and North America increasingly draconian anti-immigrant policies are being introduced.
  21. That NUS has a long and proud history of standing in solidarity with the oppressed.
  22. That students across the UK have repeatedly demonstrated their determination in fighting against anti-migrant policies and xenophobic movements and governments, including our own.

### **Conference further believes**

1. We must continue to defend free movement without shame, compromise or capitulation.
2. Free movement is not against the interests of working class people. Migrant workers are part of the working class too; our politics of fighting for workers' rights does not respect borders imposed by our rulers. Furthermore, the evidence shows that immigration does not substantially depress pay or conditions.
3. Restricting immigration will therefore neither help UK-born nor migrant working-class people. Instead, such politics divide students and workers, damaging our ability to organise and fight against the common enemy that is actually responsible for low wages, shortages of housing and jobs, and overstretched public services – the rich and powerful, and the parties and politicians who serve their class interests.
4. That attacks on international students and other migrant groups are based on the same racist and xenophobic ideology, and can only be defeated through active solidarity, not creating further divisions.
5. We need to politically combat anti-migrant ideas, and advocate real solutions in their place, not concede the debate to right-wing lies.
6. That it is important to have spaces that Migrant and Refugee students know they are safe and will be protected from being reported and possibly deported during their time in the UK.
7. That the rise in hate crime towards Migrants and Refugees is unacceptable
8. That help should always be available to migrant and refugee students to allow for them to feel safe in the UK and so they can always access have free and fair access to someone who can explain them their rights

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9. That a sanctuary campus policy is the best and most accessible way for migrant and refugee students to be able to be secure and see as well as a recognisable place in most cities and towns with universities
  10. universities offer a huge voice of resistance if they become sanctuary campuses as they represent a huge section of society.
  11. That the election of Donald Trump and the sharp rightward shift across Europe will further embolden the UK government's anti-immigration stance.
  12. That the United Kingdom can and should accept many more refugees than the current UK government is doing.
  13. That migration brings benefits both to the migrants themselves and to the country they are migrating to.
  14. That arbitrary national borders that prevent certain people entering a certain country are morally reprehensible and perpetuate racism and oppression, and justify the exploitation and oppression of those migrant who do make it to our shores
  15. That freedom of movement should become the norm, not just across Europe but across the Globe.
  16. That students have a key role to play in these campaigns.
  17. That we should reject the argument that migrants bring down living conditions and wages, and instead point out that it is the ill-treatment and discrimination of migrant workers which facilitates these processes

### **Conference resolves**

1. To campaign to defend and extend freedom of movement and the right to free, accessible education for everyone, regardless of nationality. Blame not migrants, but the rich and powerful, the ruling class, for the problems facing working class people
2. To argue and campaign for a programme of immediate real solutions to the problems facing working class people, including: uniting migrant and British-born workers in trade unions to fight for improved pay and conditions for all; reversing anti-union laws; raising and enforcing the minimum wage; decent housing accessible for all; secure, decently-paid jobs, training and education for everyone; serious taxes on the rich and their businesses in order to redistribute wealth and reverse cuts, fund decent public services and rebuild the NHS.
3. To fight against any further attacks on international students, including through direct action if necessary.
4. To challenge the "students are not migrants" approach within the student movement and more broadly on the left, and to fight uncompromisingly against capitulation by the left and the student and trade union movements on migrant rights and free movement.
5. To launch a campaign that fully supports Sanctuary Campuses
6. To distribute information about Sanctuary Campuses
7. To help create and maintain any campus that wishes to become a sanctuary campus
8. To fight against the rise of hatred against migrants and refugees

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9. To supply help to any Migrants and Refugee students that may be facing issues during their time in the UK or their right to remain
  10. To express full solidarity with refugees and migrants and continue to work alongside other groups to achieve equal rights for migrants in the UK.
  11. To lobby the UK Government to accept more refugees.
  12. To condemn the aggressive anti-migrant policies of European governments including our own
  13. To campaign for the closing of detention centers, such as Yarl's Wood, alongside other groups and unions. E.g. Movement for Justice, Women for Refugee Women, Anti-Raids Network
  14. To continue to campaign for justice for the tens of thousands of international students targeted by the home office.
  15. To continue to campaign for the right of international students to study and work in the UK both during and after their degrees.
  16. To campaign for the right of unaccompanied minors to access post-16 education for free.
  17. To campaign for the rights of migrants to enter the UK, settle and work, free of discrimination and exploitation, in education, at work, and in wider society.
  18. To encourage students' unions to take actions in the same direction.
  19. To work directly with migrant solidarity groups that seek to improve conditions in detention centres, combat fascist organisations, resist deportations and other actions in solidarity with migrants.
  20. To support national demonstrations in solidarity with migrants and refugees.

## **Motion 504 | Commu Commu Commu Commu Commu Community**

### **Conference believes**

1. That some unions have proven that working with their local communities can achieve great results, such as the work of Middlesex Students' Union who worked with their local Citizens UK group to resettle 50 Syrian Refugees.
2. That there are a number of issues that affect both the student body and the wider community that they live in, such as housing or crime.

### **Conference Further believes**

1. That Students' Unions should be the centre of their local communities.
2. That Students' Unions can achieve results much more quickly if they reach out, beyond the student body to other affected bodies and build a campaign alongside them.
3. That over the last 30 years the idea of a community has been eroded, leaving a society that is far more focused on the individual than it is on the collective, which is something the student movement should work to change

### **Conference resolves**

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1. To work with students' unions to develop localised community strategies. Analysing big issues to local residents, responding to the perception of students in the local area and building a community strategy into the students' union and institution strategic plan.
  2. To support students' unions in hosting debates as well as holding national NUS led debates in the run up to assembly and parliamentary elections and working in partnership with local schools and sixth forms to encourage active participation and source questions for candidates and campaigns.
  3. To pilot the creation of a student-led apprenticeship scheme to develop regional advice networks by students' unions delivering careers advice to students and to prospective students in the local community.
  4. To support students' unions to organize welcome parties for refugees who are resettled in their local community and meet with local council leaders and MPs to discuss the number and details of refugees resettling in the area, bringing together local community groups with STAR groups on campus to create a local action plan.
  5. To support students' unions to become local refugee welcome hubs with advice and support about the local community and who to speak to as part of local community open days supported by NUS.
  6. To encourage students' unions to lobby their institutions to provide more open classes and lectures to the local community.
  7. To develop a trade standard corporate responsibility mark through the Quality Students' Union programme that can raise revenue for sustainability and community projects by undertaking ethical audits for companies on a commercial basis.
  8. To work with commercial teams in students' unions to develop local corporate social responsibility policies to actively change the way that companies work and engage with the local community.

## **Motion 505 | Strengthening the student voice**

### **Conference believes**

1. The Electoral Commission has signalled students as one of the key groups who fail to register to vote<sup>4</sup>
2. It is imperative that students' voices are heard at both national and local elections.
3. The Government 2018 Review will reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650.
4. That the changes in parliamentary constituency boundaries are a direct assault on students' rights to representation – weakening the student vote.
5. That registering students and educating them as to why it is so important to vote is key to making sure students' voices are heard nationally and locally.

### **Conference resolves**

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<sup>4</sup> [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/journalist/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-reviews-and-research/electoral-commission-report-on-1-december-2015-electoral-registers-in-great-britain](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/journalist/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-reviews-and-research/electoral-commission-report-on-1-december-2015-electoral-registers-in-great-britain) [Since 1 December, 1.3 million applications to register to vote have been made, following the significant registration activity that continues to take place across the UK in advance of the important elections in May 2016.

The Electoral Commission is also running a national public awareness campaign supported by a range of partners, ahead of the 18 April registration deadline. This includes TV, radio and digital advertising.

The campaign will reach all adults, with a focus on groups that the Commission's research has identified as being less likely to be registered to vote, such as students, young people, those who have recently moved home, people who rent their home, and people from some black and minority ethnic communities.]

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1. To provide resources and information for students' unions about voter registration and best practice.
  2. To condemn the UK Government's boundary review which weakens the student voice.
  3. To mandate the NUS VP Society and Citizenship to work on ways to highlight the important of student engagement in all elections, both nationally and locally to students across the UK.

## **Motion 506 | NUS supporting the Abortion Rights Campaign for free, safe and legal abortion in Ireland and Northern Ireland**

### **Conference believes**

1. The Republic of and Northern Ireland have some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the European Union and in the world<sup>5</sup>
2. London Irish Abortion Rights Campaign call for the repeal of the 8th Amendment from the Irish Constitution, and to extend the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland<sup>6</sup>.
3. London Irish ARC campaigns for access to free, safe, and legal abortion in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.
4. The Abortion Rights Campaign aim is to bring people in London together to campaign for free, safe, legal abortion by fundraising, lobbying, direct action, establishing partnerships with relevant people and organisations in the UK and building awareness through media and communication.
5. Women wishing to have an abortion in Northern Ireland must travel to England to receive this right.

### **Conference further believes**

1. Ever since its formation, the NUS has been the natural home for generations of women campaigning for social justice and equality.
2. The fight for a Woman's right to choose is a global fight.

### **Conference resolves**

1. The NUS should stand in solidarity with the women and others of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland
2. The NUS should support the London Irish ARC campaign to repeal the 8th Amendment in ROI and extend the 1967 Abortion Act to NI.
3. Student unions across the UK should support and raise the profile of the Abortion Rights Campaign in any way that they can to highlight the +160,000 women and others who have been forced to travel for abortion services from the Republic of Ireland since 1983<sup>7</sup>

## **Motion 508 | Pay Inequality in Higher Education and Employment Rights of University Staff**

### **Conference believes**

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<sup>5</sup> [www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-35980195](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-35980195)

<sup>6</sup> [londonirisharc.com/about](http://londonirisharc.com/about)

<sup>7</sup> [www.ifpa.ie/Hot-Topics/Abortion/Statistics](http://www.ifpa.ie/Hot-Topics/Abortion/Statistics)

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1. The explosion in use of insecure zero-hour contracts at UK universities without the option of a full-time contract is immoral, unjustifiable and has a damaging effect on the lives of academic and university staff.
  2. The demoralising effects of low pay and insecure zero-hour contracts on academic staff have a negative knock-on effect on students' education<sup>8</sup>.
  3. Postgraduate teaching staff are equally entitled to proper contracts as permanent teaching staff.
  4. That research students are workers as well as students, and thus should be entitled to associated rights to limited hours, minimum pay, healthy and safe workplaces, holidays, sick leave, academic freedom, and protection from harassment and unfair dismissal.
  5. Unjustifiable gender pay gaps exist in pay structures at UK Universities with female staff being paid an average of £6,103 less in 2013, with such pay gaps increasing to close to £10,000 at the worst offending universities.<sup>9</sup>
  6. Universities are communities in which all students, academics, and workers contribute to the financial success and sustainability of the institution – not just the Vice-Chancellors and senior managers.
  7. Vice Chancellors should not be earning salaries of 7 times their average paid member of staff on top of significant expenses – nor should their pay increase at a faster rate than their colleagues!<sup>10</sup>

### **Conference resolves**

1. Campaign for all academic and university staff to be offered a full-time or part-time contract alongside a zero-hour contract rather than be forced to accept a zero-hour contract and lose statutory benefits and increased financial insecurity.
2. To campaign for proper worker rights and legal protections for research students and thus they should have rights to minimum pay, healthy and safe workplaces, holidays, sick leave, academic freedom, and protection from harassment and unfair dismissal.
3. To stand in solidarity and actively support the University and College Union's campaign for equal pay on campuses.
4. To campaign for alongside the UCU for a 10:1 pay ratio across all universities and for proportional increases in the pay academic and university staff receive to be the same for all regardless of position.

### **Motion 509 | Fight Climate Change!**

#### **Conference believes**

1. The view of leading climate scientists that climate change exceeding 1.5°C is now likely<sup>11</sup>
2. Donald Trump's appointments of fossil fuel executives such as Tillerson; his executive orders favouring construction of new fossil fuel pipelines; and his statements contradicting climate science<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/16/universities-accused-of-importing-sports-direct-model-for-lecturers-pay](http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/16/universities-accused-of-importing-sports-direct-model-for-lecturers-pay)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/international-womens-day-universities-pay-gaps-highlighted>

<sup>10</sup> [www.ucu.org.uk/article/8096/Report-reveals-university-heads-pay-rises-and-perks](http://www.ucu.org.uk/article/8096/Report-reveals-university-heads-pay-rises-and-perks)

<sup>11</sup> [www.theguardian.com/science/2016/aug/06/global-warming-target-miss-scientists-warn](http://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/aug/06/global-warming-target-miss-scientists-warn)

<sup>12</sup> [www.ft.com/content/c04f96e0-c21e-11e6-9bca-2b93a6856354](http://www.ft.com/content/c04f96e0-c21e-11e6-9bca-2b93a6856354) [www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/01/24/trump-signs-five-more-orders-pipelines-steel-and-environment/96988428/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/01/24/trump-signs-five-more-orders-pipelines-steel-and-environment/96988428/) [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/donald-trump-paris-climate-change-deal-myron-ebell-us-president-america-pull-out-agreement-a7553676.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/donald-trump-paris-climate-change-deal-myron-ebell-us-president-america-pull-out-agreement-a7553676.html)

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3. That the government admits that 2.3 million families were living in fuel poverty this winter<sup>13</sup>.
  4. That consumer energy prices are expected to rise 5% in 2017 – a price rise driven by gas prices<sup>14</sup>.
  5. Profits of the Big Six energy firms (British Gas, EDF Energy, E.ON, npower, ScottishPower and SSE) have increased tenfold since 2007<sup>15</sup>.

### **Conference further believes**

1. Organising our energy infrastructure for private profit instead of public use is wrong
2. Private ownership of the energy infrastructure in the UK hurts people and obstructs renewable energy development
3. Urgent action is needed on climate change – faster than is comfortable for the fossil fuels industry
4. The energy industry should be put under public ownership and democratic control.

### **Conference resolves**

1. To campaign for the nationalisation of the Big Six under democratic control as part of a renewed drive for student action against climate change
2. To support protests against Trump's rollback of progress on climate change

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<sup>13</sup> [www.theguardian.com/society/2016/dec/30/millions-families-living-fuel-poverty-england-statistics](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/dec/30/millions-families-living-fuel-poverty-england-statistics)

<sup>14</sup> [www.telegraph.co.uk/bills-and-utilities/gas-electric/falling-energy-prices-this-is-the-best-way-to-take-advantage/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/bills-and-utilities/gas-electric/falling-energy-prices-this-is-the-best-way-to-take-advantage/)

<sup>15</sup> [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/11475989/Big-Six-energy-companies-profits-increased-tenfold-since-2007.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/11475989/Big-Six-energy-companies-profits-increased-tenfold-since-2007.html)



# Society and Citizenship Zone policy passed at National Conference 2018

## Motion SC101 | Ending single use plastics

### Conference believes

1. That in 2015 alone, new plastic production stood at 322 million tonnes globally.
2. At least 8 tonnes of plastic is leaked into the ocean.<sup>16</sup>
3. That the UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.8 aims to ensure that by 2030 'people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature'.

### Conference further believes

1. The amount of packaging waste in society, and single-use plastic packaging in particular, is excessive.
2. That single-use plastic packaging in particular is having a significant negative effect on aquatic ecosystems - as illustrated by BBC's Blue Planet II.
3. That the long-term impact of plastic in the food chain on humans is still poorly understood.
4. That in the absence of that understanding and given the known negative impact on aquatic ecosystems, society should adopt the precautionary principle in minimising plastic waste entering our oceans and waterways.
5. That constructive engagement with suppliers and companies by NUS and Students' Unions can lead to practical alternatives to reduce or eliminate excessive packaging.
6. That Students' Unions have an important role to play in raising environmental awareness and in encouraging pro-environmental behaviour change.
7. That environmental engagement campaigns can lead to changes in environmental values, attitudes and behaviours of students that can last well beyond their time in education.
8. That Students' Unions have an important role to play in engaging with their local communities on environmental issues - particularly with local schools.
9. That the Government's recent 25-year environment plan<sup>17</sup> was positive in its general outlook but was far too long-term and didn't include anything that was binding.

### Conference resolves

1. NUS should investigate possibilities for finding alternative options within its commercial supply chain, or to constructively engage existing providers, to identify and use lower or no packaging options - specifically focusing on reducing plastic packaging.

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<sup>16</sup> United Nations Environment, 2016 <http://cleanseas.org/get-informed>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

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2. NUS should develop a plan for phasing out products which use no recycled content, or overuse packaging. Whilst still being accommodating to disabled people's needs, for prepared easy access cheap food.
  3. NUS should support and advise students' unions on how to seek alternative suppliers, or engage with existing suppliers, where possible to limit and reduce single-use packaging waste.
  4. NUS should build a campaign for students' unions to bring to their campuses, to reduce the use of single-use plastics in particular.
  5. NUS should provide a toolkit for students' unions for Go Green Week on mitigating local pollution by running activities such as plastic clean-ups, in partnership with local and national organisations such as the Marine Conservation Society where relevant.
  6. NUS should partner with other organisations, such as the Eco Schools network, to support students to deliver sustainability education in schools.
  7. To lobby the government to ensure that the 25 Year Environment Plan is translated into meaningful policy and that more ambitious, shorter-term targets, are set for reducing plastic waste.
  8. NUS should provide toolkits for students' unions around campaigns for individual students living zero waste lifestyles, focusing on how individual students can modify behaviours and make sustainability focused life decisions.
  9. NUS Society and Citizenship Zone should work with the NUS Disabled Students Campaign to increase understanding among students' unions of requirements for single use plastics due to accessibility reasons.
  10. NUS Society and Citizenship Zone should work with the NUS Higher Education Zone and NUS Further Education Zone to develop toolkits around incorporating sustainability into national and local curriculums, and incorporating understanding of the UN Sustainable Development Goals into education.

## **Motion SC102 | International not isolationism**

### **Conference believes**

1. In 2016, there were around 39,000 applications for asylum in the UK. Less than half of these were accepted<sup>18</sup>.
2. That only around 1% of the world's refugees live in the UK.<sup>19</sup>
3. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported in 2016 that there were around 22 million refugees and 2.3 million people were seeking asylum globally.
4. Turkey, Pakistan and Lebanon host the largest amount of refugees globally; Turkey hosts 2.7 million refugees. Lebanon, a country the size of Wales, now hosts over a million refugees.<sup>20</sup>
5. That the International Rescue Committee (IRC) currently runs the Together for Refugees campaign, calling on EU countries to resettle and support refugees and asylum seekers.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/summary>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.redcross.org.uk/~media/BritishRedCross/Documents/What%20we%20do/Refugee%20support/Mythbuster%20booklet%202016.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/refugee\\_services/resettlement\\_programme/refugee\\_resettlement\\_the\\_facts](https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/refugee_services/resettlement_programme/refugee_resettlement_the_facts)

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6. People who have sought refuge in the UK do not have equal access to university; most are classed as international students which mean they are charged higher fees. On top of this most cannot get a student loan and do not have the right to work to earn money to pay their fees and living costs.
  7. That the NUS Society and Citizenship Campaign and the International Students' Campaign have been working with Student Action for Refugees (STAR) to campaign for better access to education for refugees and asylum seekers.
  8. The roots of the current refugee crisis are inherently political.
  9. NUS has often shied away from international solidarity, or derided this as "not relevant" to students in the UK.
  10. Given the global span of our student membership; the active role of the UK government in creating the conditions for refugee flight; or the fact as illustrated by this refugee crisis that international events inevitably come "knocking on our door"- this is a very narrow conception of our movement.
  11. NUS is uniquely positioned in civil society to challenge and organise around international issues, and government policy on these.
  12. Our solidarity with refugees can and must go further than supporting them once they have arrived in Britain, to the root causes of why they are forced to flee their homes whether war, climate change, border policies or otherwise.
  13. We must also vigorously oppose the surveillance and subjugation refugee/migrant students face under the UK immigration regime.
  14. From December 1938 to August 1939 Britain allowed 10,000 Jewish children on the Kindertransport to seek refuge from Nazi Germany, including Lord Alf Dubs.
  15. There are currently 95,000 unaccompanied refugee children living in Europe.
  16. In 2016 more than 25,800 unaccompanied children risked their lives to reach Europe.
  17. Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, known as the Dubs Amendment, required the government to help relocate 3000 refugees to the UK and support unaccompanied child refugees.
  18. After only 200 child refugees were allowed into the country, the scheme is set to finish after letting in only another 150 in.
  19. On average, it takes 10-11 months to bring refugees in northern France to their family in the UK.

### **Conference further believes**

1. That the UK, as well as the rest of Europe, should commit to resettling and supporting far more refugees than it currently does.
2. That everyone, including refugees and asylum seekers, should be able to access and succeed in education.
3. That, particularly since the EU referendum, the mainstream media have vastly over exaggerated the number of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.
4. This has led to a rapid increase in reported incidents of hate crime aimed at black and Muslim people in the UK.
5. That refugees and asylum seekers in the UK should be able to access work that is fairly paid, safe and secure.

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6. Trade union officials have at times repeated damaging fallacies about migrant workers “driving down wages” for workers in order to justify their opposition to free movement.
  7. NUS must be steadfast in campaigning against such logic, and campaign for an end to borders.
  8. Campaigns like the LSE Cleaners’, and SOAS Justice 4 Cleaners, show how powerful student solidarity with precarious migrant workers in our institutions can be.
  9. It is unacceptable that the Home Secretary stopped the Dubs amendment on the grounds of it encouraging “people trafficking”.
  10. The Dublin Regulation has created a situation where there are child refugees with no legitimate home because they fall outside the policies parameters
  11. Dubs therefore serves the purpose of taking in these children in desperate need of a home, but have no ties to a specific country
  12. Britain has a responsibility to relocate, support and welcome unaccompanied child refugees to the UK and given the NUS’ track record on fighting injustice it is right to campaign on this issue.
  13. As students, we are the next important generation and have a responsibility to fight for what is right.
  14. Local authorities play a vital role in supporting child refugees.

### **Conference resolves**

1. That the NUS Society and Citizenship campaign should work with the International Rescue Committee to campaign for the UK to increase the number of refugees it resettles each year.
2. That the NUS Society and Citizenship campaign should support the International Students’ Campaign with its work with Students Action for Refugees, campaigning for better access to education for refugees and asylum seekers through the Equal Access campaign.
3. To collaborate with the trade union movement to campaign for better employment rights for asylum seekers and refugees.
4. Support student solidarity campaigns with migrant workers in universities, and work with the IWGB to develop campaign guidance for students.
5. Lobby universities to oppose the encroachment of anti-migrant 'Hostile Environment' policies on their institutions as far as legally possible.
6. To provide training sessions on migrants’ rights.
7. Continue opposing any legislation restricting migrant rights and freedom of movement.
8. NUS will press the government to reopen the Dubs Amendment as well as honoring the Children at Risk Scheme, the National Transfer Scheme and Dublin Regulation under EU law to take in unaccompanied child refugees if they can be reunited with family in the UK, and speed the process up.
9. NUS will lobby local authorities to allocate resources to unaccompanied child refugees to demonstrate to the government that more than 480 refugee children can be accepted into Britain.



# Society and Citizenship Zone policy passed at National Conference 2019

## Environmental Justice

### Conference Believes

1. Across the globe, and particularly in the so-called global south, Black and poor communities disproportionately experience the gravest impacts of environmental pollution and climate change.
2. Moreover, those who are the key contributors to climate change globally are western powers, predominantly white states and rich corporations. Those who benefit from the airports, power plants, oil companies that cause climate change are mainly richer people who live in cities.
3. Whilst there is amazing work happening across the UK, in NUS and at students' unions, often this work fails to sufficiently highlight the racialised and classed aspect of the causes and impacts of climate change.
4. The US Environmental Protection Agency describes environmental justice as: "...the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies." [1]
5. Across the globe, people of colour are often at the forefront of campaigning but have their voices and interests shut out of decision making on issues regarding the environment.
6. The Environmental Justice Foundation estimate that between 2008 and 2016, 21.5 million people became displaced because of extreme weather events caused by global warming. The United Nations predict that the number of climate refugees worldwide could reach up to 1 billion by 2050.
7. These environmental refugees do not currently have the right to stay in the UK
8. These people will be from the most vulnerable communities across the globe – 99% of direct victims of climate change come from countries which overall contribute to just 1% of global emissions.
9. In 2016, it was reported that Black African and Caribbean people living in London are disproportionately exposed to air pollution. It had already been acknowledged that poorer people in London most greatly feel the effects of air pollution, but this was the first time that the UK Government had been exposed for the impact this was having on Black communities too.
10. The idea of environmental justice isn't a new one, it arose in the 1980's from the struggles of Black communities in the US trying to challenge the impact that environmental injustices were having on their local communities.
11. Climate change is real and it is happening now, caused by the burning of fossil fuels predominantly by the world's richest nations.
12. The effects of climate are already being felt through warming global temperatures, leading to more frequent extreme weather events and rising sea levels.
13. The world's poorest people will suffer most from climate change. 4. Local and indigenous communities on the frontline of fossil fuel extraction face land grabs, violence and ill health. The colonial models of extraction employed by the fossil fuel industry must not be replicated as we decarbonise.
14. UK HE institutions have led globally on fossil fuel divestment with over 72 making some kind of commitment. Banks are a major source of finance for fossil fuel companies allowing them to continue profiting from climate change.

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15. Barclays provided \$10.927bn to fossil fuel companies and projects between 2015 and 2017.
  16. Barclays supports the companies behind fracking in Yorkshire, the clearance of Hambacher Forest for coal mining, and the Keystone XL pipeline extension.

### **Conference Further Believes**

1. Environmental justice should be adopted as a framework for ensuring that the needs and voices of Black communities locally and globally are central to our work tackling environmental challenges.
2. Our work must centre the needs of and amplify the voices of Black and working-class people who are already feeling the impacts of climate change most dramatically, in communities across the UK and internationally.
3. The principle of environmental justice should exist at every level of our sustainability work, from our supply chain through to our work with activists on campus.
4. That action on climate change is best delivered on an international and local level. Students' unions are in an excellent position to build relationships with activist groups on and off campus in order to ensure that their campaigning work is as inclusive and effective as possible.
5. That climate refugees should have the right to enter and remain in the UK.
6. Divest-invest is effectively stripping the fossil fuel industry of its social license to profit from climate breakdown and we should aim for all UK HE institutions to divest.
7. The Fossil Free movement should expand to target banks and cut off a key source of financial support for the fossil fuel industry.
8. Climate injustice is a class issue and requires leadership from workers in and outside the energy industry.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. NUS should support students' unions to develop relationships with activist groups on and off campus to ensure a variety of voices are reflected in their sustainability work
2. NUS should collaborate with expert organisations and already working within an environmental justice framework, such as War on Want and People and Planet and launch a toolkit
3. NUS should continue its commitment to the Divest-Invest Campaign
4. NUS should work with the Black Students' Campaign on this issue
5. NUS should lobby the Government to provide robust rights and protections for climate refugees once they arrive in the UK
6. Divest-invest and fossil free finance should be high-profile campaigns for NUS.
7. NUS should work with campaigning organisations such as People & Planet, BankTrack and 350.org to continue divest-invest and develop fossil free finance campaigning.
8. Make links with trade unions working on just transition and climate justice to co-develop solidarity campaigns between students and workers.
9. Society and Citizenship zone to support SU Officers to increase the number of Students' Union and university boycotts of Barclays and incorporate fossil free finance into annual SU and NUS officer trainings.
10. Society and Citizenship zone to work with Further Education zone to ensure FE is prioritised in NUS' work on divest-invest and fossil free finance.
11. NUS to boycott Barclays until they stop financing all fossil fuel companies and extraction projects, including:
12. Do not bank with Barclays.

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13. Have no financial dealings with Barclays.
  14. Do not allow Barclays to sponsor, advertise or recruit at NUS events or across its digital platforms.
  15. Do not accept awards sponsored by Barclays.
  16. Have no other dealings with Barclays.

## **Institutionalised Islamophobia**

### **Conference Believes**

1. Islamophobia is on the rise across wider society, however there is little acknowledgement of the institutionalised forms and practices of racialised and gendered islamophobia
2. NUS has not been exempt from this Islamophobia with wrongful and irresponsible reporting and misrepresentation of events taking place at NUS NEC & other NUS Events and meetings leading to abuse of Muslim Officers and Volunteers
3. The Muslims in Education Report stated "1 in 3 Muslim Students felt unwelcome at NUS Democratic Events" with many stating they had faced anti-muslim rhetoric and hatred.
4. The NUS IRR specifically states the concern in which the media gave 'partial or highly selective coverage of elections and motions' at the national conference 2016 and reporting of the election announcements using words such as 'shock and controversy'. This rhetoric was magnified by comments made on social media
5. The NUS IRR also noted worries regarding the ability of NUS to respond and manage such incidents and that students are unaware of resources available to them
6. Muslim students, sabbatical officers and FTOs across the student movement are subjects of double standards of scrutiny and media attention
7. Muslim students and officers running in elections and volunteering for NUS have suffered considerable damage to their mental, physical and emotional well-being as a result despite leading on some of the most important and progressive work undertaken
8. Use of islamophobic and racialised language when referring to Muslim and racialised students by the leadership of NUS has gone unchecked despite concerns raised by Muslim students and officers repeatedly
9. This came to a head with candidates at National Conference 2017 running openly Islamophobic election campaigns
10. Sections and zones of NUS have failed to critically engage with and support Muslim students, the burden of which has fallen to liberation campaigns
10. Symptomatic of NUS's institutionalised failure towards Muslim students is the fact that NUS events were held on Eid Ul adha, Eid Ul Fitr and Ramadan.

### **Conference Further Believes**

1. The treatment of Muslim volunteers has caused many Muslim students to re-consider getting involved in NUS
2. NUS and elected full-time officers need to do more for Muslim students and officers beyond tokenistic practices and lip service
4. The Women's Campaign this year has run campaigns on Gendered Islamophobia and shed much light on the experiences of Muslim women within the movement.
5. There is a pressing need to highlight the experiences of Muslim students more broadly, including Islamophobia but also when engaging with NUS and student democratic structures more broadly
6. That the NUS Womens Campaign and Black Students Campaign have engaged with the APPG on British Muslims in the Islamophobia Defines Report.



## Conference Resolves

1. To subscribe to the definition of Islamophobia as laid out by the APPG on British Muslims - Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.
2. To introduce training on islamophobia and implicit bias into NUS Lead and Change programs to be directed by Muslims FTOs, NEC Members & FOSIS
3. To mandate the NUS VP UD to work on an action plan specifically to target institutionalised islamophobia within NUS and training for FTOs
4. To ensure that officers and volunteers are sufficiently held to account for the use of racialised and Islamophobic tropes such as the 'far left', 'extremist' in reference to Muslim students and students of colour
5. To issue a statement in light of this motion to re-assure Muslim students across the movement of NUS's commitment to tackling this issue

## Brexit

### Conference Believes

1. That many students have concerns and uncertainty about the impact that Brexit is going to have on their future education and status in the UK
2. That many of the government and sector briefings have been vague
3. That this uncertainty poses a huge risk to both those students as individuals and also to the sector
4. A critical role of NUS is to take complex national policy and translate it into more accessible briefings
5. Brexit is almost guaranteed to mean the biggest increase of immigration controls in decades; a deepening of the xenophobic "hostile environment" policy; and the biggest attack on migrants' rights in a generation. This will affect all migrants, whether they are here on EU papers (as are many migrants from non-EU countries), or other papers, or are undocumented.
6. We must campaign to end detention, deportations, the denial of access to services and the 'no recourse to public funds' policy for migrants.
7. Many of the lowest-paid and most exploited workers on our campuses are migrants: Brexit will make it much easier for employers to bully and exploit them. We should stand in solidarity with these workers, alongside others who will be hardest-hit by Brexit's xenophobia and attacks on workers' rights.
8. We should loudly oppose Brexit and campaign for a People's Vote with an option to remain, hand-in-hand with campus trade unions such as the IWGB.
9. From the 'Fortress Europe' border regime to the neoliberal economic policies it pursues, the EU must be radically transformed. But we can only fight to change it from within: EU membership and social and economic integration across borders provides a higher platform for united working-class struggle across Europe, for free movement and migrants' rights; against austerity and neoliberalism; for social levelling-up across Europe; and for democracy in the EU.
10. In the context of the growth in right-wing and nationalist political parties and movements worldwide, it's now more important than ever that we promote internationalism.

### Conference Further Believes

1. NUS must fight to defend and extend EU and non-EU migrants' rights and freedom of movement as a human right. However, the For Our Future's Sake (FFS) campaign for a People's Vote, spearheaded by the NUS President, VPHE and VPFE, is silent on this issue, despite a mandate from 2017 NUS Conference to "fight uncompromisingly against capitulation by the left and the student and trade union movements on migrant rights and free movement."



2. FFS lists a member of 'Young Conservatives for a People's Vote' as one of its 'Young Leaders', and includes Tory MP Anna Soubry and the Lib Dem Deputy Leader Jo Swinson in its list of supporting politicians. Any coalition with Tories, business leaders and Lib Dems makes it impossible to lead an anti-Brexit campaign in the interests of students and the working class.

3. 2017 policy mandates NUS to "argue and campaign for a programme of immediate real solutions to the problems facing students and working class people, including: uniting migrant and British-born workers in trade unions to fight for improved pay and conditions for all; reversing anti-union laws; raising and enforcing the minimum wage; decent housing accessible for all; secure, decently-paid jobs, training and education for everyone; serious taxes on the rich and their businesses in order to redistribute wealth and reverse cuts to welfare and education, fund decent public services and rebuild the NHS." This cannot be done in a lash up with Tories, Lib Dems and business leaders.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. NUS should produce briefings both for SU's and directly for students outlining the latest developments in relation to Brexit and their likely implications for students and the sector
2. That these briefings should be as clear as possible about the implications for students in different circumstances taking into account different levels of understanding for the politics and bureaucratic process of the UK
3. NUS should also prepare a briefing for SU's on the impact of Brexit for our elected officers and staff members
4. To support and campaign for a Remain vote in any upcoming Brexit referendum, in favour of the retention and extension of free movement for all, regardless of income, education or employment status, while fighting for radical social and democratic changes within the EU.
5. To campaign for any second referendum to give migrants living in the UK and 16 and 17 year olds a vote.
6. Oppose all restrictions on migration, with the understanding that border controls are in opposition to the interests of the working class

## **Tackling Knife Crime**

### **Conference Believes**

1. Knife crime is a society wide issue which is ruining lives and destroying families
2. In London alone in 2018 there were 14,769 knife crimes reported by the Metropolitan Police including 70 fatal stabbings
3. Many of the victims are our members

### **Conference Resolves**

1. Knife crime needs to be treated as a public health issue, such an approach in Scotland has seen knife crime reduce by 69% in a decade whilst it has grown across the rest of the UK
2. This requires a joined up approach between the NHS, Police, Schools, Colleges, Universities and Charities
3. NUS should seek partners to launch a national campaign against knife crime focussed on the importance of education

## **Living Wage Motion**

### **Conference Believes**

1. Everyone deserves to be paid a wage that they can live on.

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2. Just over 20% of Universities are currently Living Wage Employers <sup>21</sup>
  3. As of 2018, 92% of students believe all university staff should be paid a Living Wage<sup>22</sup>
  4. As evidence shows many students struggle with the cost of living, NUS Wales' 2015 "pounds in your pocket survey" found many students must work or take on personal debt to support their study.
  5. Around 55% of students working 0-8 hours a week feel they struggle with their course due to work commitments, with close to 70% of students who work more than 25 hours a week feeling they struggle with their course due to work commitments.
  6. Students also have high levels of personal debt beyond their student debt
  7. Close to 50% of undergraduate students have personal debt ranging from overdrafts to payday loans.
  8. Outsourcing of workers by universities creates a two-tier workforce where outsourced staff experience poorer working conditions and earn less per hour<sup>23</sup>
  9. Workers currently paid less than a living wage in UK universities are predominantly women<sup>24</sup>
  10. When universities are a large employer in their area, they possess wage-setting power that determines the pay of workers beyond the university as well as within.
  11. As of April 2018, the minimum wage for those aged 16-17 is £4.20, 18-20 £5.90, 21-25 £7.38 and £7.83 for those over the age of 25.
  12. The current minimum wage set out by the government is not sufficient to properly subsidise students during their time at university.
  13. By April 2019, the minimum and living wage is set to rise.

### **Conference Further Believes**

1. Students, and student-led-campaigns, can play a vital role in holding their universities to account for their failure to pay a real living wage to all staff.
2. Moreover, student activists should be working to improve the lives of every member of their university communities, students and staff alike.
3. This is an area where Students' Unions across the country have a responsibility and an ability to take action.
4. Concerns over debt and money, often linked to socio-economic background, shouldn't be something which inhibits a student's ability to study.
5. Current government legislation has not gone far enough to address these problems.
6. The current structure of the minimum wage is insufficient to addressing these problems.
7. The age structure represents a form of discrimination which disproportionately affects students.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. To mandate the Vice President Society and Citizenship, or relevant officers, to work with the Living Wage Foundation and Citizens UK to develop strategies for securing the Living Wage for university employees.
2. To support the creation of student-led campaigns for the living wage through Students Unions' nationally
3. To mandate officers to provide relevant resources, expertise and guidance to students campaigning for the living wage in their universities.
4. To investigate the extent of outsourcing in universities, as an obstacle to securing a living wage for all.

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<sup>21</sup> [The Living Wage Foundation, 15th September 2018, <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/news/news-students-shocked-vice-chancellor-excess-back-call-living-wage-universities%C2%A0>. The Living Wage is calculated based on the real cost of living determined by a basic basket of goods drawing from the Minimum Income Standard. It is currently £9.00 outside London, and £10.55 in London].

<sup>22</sup> [<https://www.livingwage.org.uk/news/news-students-shocked-vice-chancellor-excess-back-call-living-wage-universities%C2%A0>].

<sup>23</sup> [The Living Wage in the UK Higher Education Sector, Unison and NUS, 2013. <https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2013/11/Briefings-and-CircularsLiving-wage-research-Exec-summary3.pdf>].

<sup>24</sup> [<https://www.livingwage.org.uk/news/news-women-continue-be-hit-hardest-low-wages-uk>]

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5. That the NUS should campaign to make every Students' Union across the country a Living Wage employer.
  6. That Students' Unions across the country should pay the national living wage to all students in place of the minimum wage to all students regardless of age – this is currently set at £7.83 per hour.
  7. Furthermore, that Students' Unions should increase the wage paid to SU staff in line with increases set out by the government.
  8. NUS should support workers' struggles in education and beyond, work with Labour and trade unions to win £10ph minimum wage and ban zero hour contracts. Run a campaign to organise student workers, from postgrad lecturers and nursing students to those working in the fast food industry. The NUS should actively support workers in struggle, including offering practical solidarity, particularly to young student workers, such as those involved in the recent McDonalds and Picturehouse strikes.
  9. Campaign to bring all workers engaged in work on campus "in-house", for better pay, working conditions and job security.

*DPC Note: This motion resolves to mandate Students' Unions – this is not within the power of NUS to resolve and can only be advisory*



## Students' Rights in the Workplace, End Precarious Work, Precarious Workers on Campus

### Conference Believes

1. In order to deal with rising living costs students are increasingly working alongside their studies.
2. In 2015 around 77% of students were in paid employment alongside their degrees. (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-33843987>)
3. As of 2017 less than 8% of working 16-24 year olds were members of a trade union. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/trade-union-statistics-2017>)
4. Students can find themselves subject to undesirable, or sometimes unlawful, employment conditions.
5. Students on tier 4 visas have limits on the amount of work they are allowed to do.
6. A significant number of students as part of their course are required to take unpaid work.
7. Precarious employment has become a typical feature of our lives under capitalism.
8. An upsurge in precarious work is a natural product of capitalist crisis.
9. Over 10 million people in Britain are currently considered to be in precarious employment. (1)
10. Low pay, poor working conditions, zero-hour contracts and minimal rights have become standard.
11. Many workers on campus, from cleaning staff to lecturers, are employed on precarious contracts, often on zero hours.
12. Many students are themselves engaged in precarious work in order to pay their way through university or college.
13. There has been a rise in the number of academic staff employed on precarious contracts at universities, with some institutions employing 70% of their teaching staff on insecure contracts.
14. Postgraduate students are often employed on highly insecure contracts, expected to work for low pay and inconsistent hours.
15. This leads people to be barely able to live off their wages and are living in a desperate social and financial situation. (2)
16. At Universities, the result of this has been recent campaigns to bring cleaners and other staff in-house.
17. The Conservative government has been promoting and encouraging precarious employment. (3)

### Conference Further Believes

1. Many of the most precarious and acutely exploited workers on campus are migrant women. This means our approach to improving the conditions of these workers is bound up with the tasks of women's liberation and the fight for migrant rights: extending free movement of peoples and working towards a more equal society in which the expectations of reproductive labour do not fall disproportionately on women.
2. It is the task of students and workers alike to organise against this move towards job insecurity as both groups stand to lose from the current state of affairs. The working conditions of campus workers deteriorating invariably means the deterioration of students' learning conditions.
3. We have the technology, resources, and ability to plan the economy so that no-one has to work in precarious employment,
4. All workers should get a real living wage, fixed-term contracts, and full workers' rights.
5. Student workers can face specific difficulties in managing academics and working. ('I could have got a better degree' <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/aug/07/grades-experience-yourstories-working-studying-university>)

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6. Student workers can feel excluded from student life as short notice events are difficult to attend, especially students with varying working schedules. This can lead to some student workers feeling excluded from wider student life.
  7. Trade Unions are key organisations in providing protection and resources for those who are employed.
  8. Students Unions and Trade Unions share the values of collectivism and democracy and should work together to achieve their shared goals.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. To provide a best practice guide for student unions and student groups inclusion of student workers.
2. To work with the TUC and other relevant organisations to provide resources and information surrounding student workers' rights.
3. To create a toolkit to encourage students to join the relevant trade union and provide resources to this effect.
4. How students on tier 4 visas ensure they are working their legal allowance should be included in the toolkit.
5. To provide guidelines to universities regarding how best to support student workers and their academic studies.
6. The NUS should campaign for all unpaid work within courses to be paid.
7. Oppose all restrictions on migration, with the understanding that border controls are in opposition to the interests of the working class.
8. Support existing campaigns such as UoL Justice for Cleaners and any trade union action to that end.
9. To support, with financial help and active participation, the struggles of precarious workers.
10. To help organise a joint committee of union representatives of all precarious workers at universities, colleges, and schools.
11. To make the case for and participate in joint union action, on a national scale, in defence of the rights of precarious workers.

(1)<http://www.gmb.org.uk/newsroom/millions-insecure-work>

(2)<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/minimum-wage-failing-working-parents-children-budget-cost-child-poverty-cpag-a8498556.html>

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21508526?fbclid=IwAR3wi9hkqcli9h5Mz5MRWF0m\\_c332wPwkcBTErnGP3f2XaVJIQLPrDyt1ZM](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21508526?fbclid=IwAR3wi9hkqcli9h5Mz5MRWF0m_c332wPwkcBTErnGP3f2XaVJIQLPrDyt1ZM)

(3)<https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/workers-rights-reform-new-overhaul-zero-hours-contracts/>

## **Support the Love Equality Coalition**

### **Content Note: Suicide**

#### **Conference Believes**

Content Warning: Suicide

1. That marriage is a fundamental human right that everyone, regardless of their identity, should have access to.
2. That it is our duty as a Students' Association to fight for marriage equality and LGBT+ rights in Northern Ireland, not only on behalf of our LGBT+ and Northern Irish student populations, but also as a fundamental right.

#### **Conference Further Believes**

1. In the most recent vote, 51% of Northern Irish MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly) voted for marriage equality, but the DUP (Democratic Unionist Party) was able to veto it by invoking a petition of concern [1].
2. 70% of the Northern Irish public are in support of marriage equality [2].
3. Northern Ireland is the only place in the UK where same-sex marriage is still illegal.



4. Reduced LGBT+ rights in Northern Ireland has led to a mental health crisis in the community that is particularly severe, with 35% of LGBT+ individuals self-harming compared to 13% in rest of UK, 57% drinking to hazardous levels compared to 24% in England, and 25% attempting suicide [3]

[1] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-politics-34692546>

[2] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/survey-shows-70-support-for-samesex-marriages-in-northern-ireland-34842125.html>

[3] <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/mental-health-northern-ireland-fundamental-facts>

### **Conference Resolves**

1. To support the Love Equality Coalition campaign for equal marriage in Northern Ireland during LGBT+ history month.
2. To support the Love Equality Coalition further by publishing a statement of support as a Students' Association, and running an awareness-raising campaign about marriage equality in Northern Ireland.
3. To encourage local LGBTQ+ organisations to do the same.