
nus *women* **CONFERENCE**

24-26 March | Venue TBC

Motions CD6

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Purpose of this document

Key information

The work of the NUS Women's Campaign is directed by policy passed at Women's Conference. If you would like to submit amendments to any motion that has been submitted, please submit to executiveoffice@nus.org.uk before the deadline of **12pm on Friday 20 February**.





Zone: Rules Revision

Motion 101: Putting pronouns on the cards

Submitted by: NUS LGBT Committee

Conference Believes:

1. Pronouns are used in the English language to replace nouns in order to make conversation easier. An example of the use of a pronoun is when referring to somebody instead of using their name.
2. The current delegate name badges at all NUS conferences and events simply state the delegate's name, their constituent membership and if they attend an HE or an FE institution.
3. Delegates who use gender neutral pronouns currently have to write this on their badges themselves to ensure other delegates use their correct preferred pronouns.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Delegates currently having to manually write their pronouns on their badges may make them feel uncomfortable, othered, or outed as trans* (despite the safe space policy).
2. NUS Women's Campaign is open to all who self-define as women, including (if they wish) those with complex gender identities which include 'woman', and those who experience oppression as women. The campaign affirms that self-definition of gender identity and pronouns are at the sole discretion of the individual in question.
3. Delegates to NUS Women's conference may use pronouns that are not she/her, and encouraging all delegates to specify their pronouns will foster a culture of not assuming pronouns based on gender presentation and help ensure that everyone's preferred gender pronouns are upheld.
4. All delegates specifying their pronouns and asking each other for pronouns may help to ensure that delegates are not misgendered, as this can make delegates feel unsafe or trigger gender dysphoria.

Conference Resolves:

1. To ask all delegates attending NUS conferences and events for their pronouns at the point of registration (this would be a blank box which text could be typed into).
2. To print pronouns on all delegate's badges.
3. To continue to reiterate when establishing the safe space policy that all delegates should respect and uphold each other's pronouns.


Motion 102: Introduce a Postgraduate Rep on Women's Committee

Submitted by: University of Bristol Union


Conference Believes:

1. Postgraduate self-defining women are under-represented in NUS liberation campaigns, in terms of their issues being focused on as well as their presence at events and involvement in campaigns.
2. Postgraduate women students face particular kinds of discrimination and issues specific to pursuing postgraduate taught and research degrees. For example, the close and intense nature of the supervisory relationship for research students lends itself to experiences of sexism particular to this level of study, of which the infamous case of Colin McGinn's resignation from the University of Miami after accusations of sexual harassment from a graduate student is an exemplar. This happens everywhere in academia because there are power imbalances between staff and students where patriarchy thrives. Research environments (labs, seminars and conferences) are rife with misogynistic attitudes from fellow students as well as staff, highlighting the drop in certain subjects (especially STEM) in the number of women who carry onto postgraduate study. The nature of Postgraduate Taught education also means women could face particular difficulties while studying short, intense and most of all, expensive degrees with little financial support, with student carers and students workers being particularly impacted.



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3. As with the introduction of an FE rep, a Postgraduate rep would help re-address the under-representation of a sizeable group of the student body and highlight the particular educational experience women have while studying for a postgraduate degree.

Conference Resolves:

1. To introduce a position for a Postgraduate representative on Women's Committee.
 2. To provide support to the Women's committee to work with constituent members' elected officers to raise awareness of national women's liberation campaigns and encourage the involvement and inclusion of postgraduate women students and activists, also encouraging postgraduate women to stand to be conference delegates.
 3. To provide support to the elected Postgraduate Rep on the committee to liaise with Women's and liberation officers in local student unions to work on postgraduate women's issues and make campaigns more inclusive and reflective of the diverse range of educational experiences in Higher Education.
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Zone: Education

Motion 201: For a Liberated and Democratic Curriculum

Submitted by: Edinburgh University Students' Association

Conference Believes:

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


Conference Resolves:

1. That the NUS Women's Campaign should release a series of articles profiling efforts being made to campaign around liberating the curriculum currently.
2. That the NUS Women's Campaign must highlight in all of its material about the liberated curriculum that this will only be truly won when we have democratic universities.

Motion 202: Prison Abolition is a Feminist Issue

Submitted by: Edinburgh University Students' Association

Conference Believes:

1. Prison does not work; 47% of prisoners reoffend within one year. [1]
 2. Justice Minister Chris Grayling has tried to ban books from prisons. [2]
 3. 46% of women in prison are survivors of domestic abuse. [3]
 4. 53% of women in prison are survivors of sexual violence. [4]
 5. 49% of women in prison have depression or anxiety. [5]
 6. 67% of women in prison for killing somebody close to them were abused by that person. [6]
 7. 46% of women in prison reported attempting suicide at some point in their lives. [7]
 8. Trans people are regularly incarcerated in the wrong gendered prison and/or denied hormone therapy. [8]
 9. Children of prisoners are three times more likely to have a mental illness than other children. [9]
 10. 66% of women in prison have dependent children under 18. [10]
 11. In the last decade the women's prison population has gone up by 33%, with two thirds being in prison for non-violent offences. [11]
 12. As many as 90% of prisoners report experiencing some kind of mental illness. [12]
 13. Women in prison are 11 times more likely to self-harm than men in prison. [13]
 14. The prison-industrial complex* is a fundamentally unjust system; one that disproportionately affects and harms women, people of colour, LGBTIQI+, sex worker, trans and working-class communities.
 15. The ruling class determine what warrants incarceration; as such prisons do not work in our interests.
 16. Prison is about punishment, not reformation or justice.
 17. Prison is a system of brutality that attacks and takes advantage of the already vulnerable for the profit of private companies.
 18. Austerity, coupled with cuts to legal aid will mean the incarceration of many more people.
 19. Immigration, sex work and drug possession are key areas where people are incarcerated for non-violent crimes, posing no danger to the public.
 20. People are politically targeted by the state and unfairly incarcerated.
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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 assist any organisations working to stop the building of a new women's prison in Inverclyde.
4. To offer financial assistance to organisations including but not limited to The Empty Cages Collective.
5. To oppose proposed regressive prison reforms.
6. To support initiatives that write letters of solidarity to prisoners.

References:

* The prison industrial complex is a system comprised of prisons, the state and private companies, resulting in prisoners doing free or extremely poorly paid labour. Private companies benefit from this as prisoners are not covered by minimum wage legislation, and governments benefit as prisoners cannot vote or organise within unions.

[1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9] Prison Reform Trust

[2] <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/chris-grayling-spends-72000-of-taxpayers-money-to-defend-unlawful-prison-book-ban-9969937.html>

[6] New York Department of Corrections

[8] <http://www.pfc.org.uk/pdf/EngenderedPenalties.pdf>

[10, 11, 13] Prisonabolition.org

[12] Peay, J (2007) 'Mentally disordered offenders, mental health and crime', in MacGuire M. et al. (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Motion 203: Free Education and Living Grants

Submitted by: University College London Union

Conference Believes:

1. Free education at all levels is a necessary part of an accessible education system.
2. Free education means more than the absence of fees.
3. All students should be provided with living grants allowing them to live comfortably, and grants to allow any dependents to live comfortably.
4. This can all be funded through increased taxation on the richest in society.
5. When caring responsibilities and child-raising responsibilities more frequently fall on women, studying can be difficult enough, and financial difficulties can heavily contribute towards / force students to leave their studies.


Conference Resolves:


1. The NUS Women's Campaign, and the NUS Women's Officer, should campaign for free education, combined with living grants.
2. The NUS Women's Campaign should widely publicise its belief in free education and living grants and explain widely why free education is a feminist issue.

Motion 204: I Will... Lead in STEM

Submitted by: Oxford University Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. Women students are underrepresented in STEM subjects, and this underrepresentation increases the higher the level of study and work.
 2. One of the factors that is linked to this underrepresentation and attrition is the lack of visible women role models in STEM, and a feeling of being an 'imposter'.
 3. The underrepresentation of women in STEM is a serious problem.
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4. The NUS Women's Campaign has policy that 'resolves to undertake the underrepresentation and lack of progression of Women in STEM as an important issue for the Women's campaign' (Women in STEM, 2014)
 5. The NUS Women's Campaign has policy that affirms that it is important to make a 'real and lasting impact on women student studying STEM subjects' (Interconnecting across the UK, 2012).
 6. The NUS Women's Campaign has in the past worked with The Interconnect Network on this issue.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Women in Leadership is a priority for the NUS.
2. The NUS Women's Campaign has policy that affirms the importance of 'individual capacity' (along with 'structural barriers' and 'changing organisational culture') to campaigning on women in leadership (Women in Leadership, 2014).
3. The NUS programme 'I Will... Lead the Way', which 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.
4. 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).

Conference Resolves:

1. The mandate the NUS Women's Officer, and the HE and FE Representatives on the Women's Campaign Committee, to look into running a mentoring scheme for women in STEM modelled on 'I Will... Lead the Way'.

Motion 205: Free Education

Submitted by: NUS Women's Committee

Conference Believes:

1. "Feminist education - the feminist classroom - is and should be a place where there is a sense of struggle, where there is visible acknowledgement of the union of theory and practice, where we work together as teachers and students to overcome the estrangement and alienation that have become so much the norm in the contemporary university." - Bell Hooks
2. Education is a public good and should be free for everyone to access.
3. An educated society is one which holds more progressive views on Liberation issues.
4. At the current tuition fees rate, it will take women a lot longer to pay back their debt due to the gender pay gap.
5. Investing in free education would not only offer opportunities for women it would play a central role in reviving the economy now and in promoting longer-term prosperity and growth for the future.
6. Free education would pay for itself. Research shows that for every £1 invested in higher education the economy expands by £2.60.


Conference Resolves:


1. Oppose and campaign against all methods of charging students for education – including tuition fees and a 'graduate tax', which is nothing less than a euphemism for 'student debt'.
2. To produce a briefing on the impact free education will have on women
3. To oppose 24 plus loans in Further Education
4. To oppose moves to market driven Further Education framework

Motion 205: Research sexism in educational environments

Submitted by: University of Bristol Union

Conference Believes:

1. Studies of sexism in educational environments have focused on sexism in academia and the experiences of women academics and early career researchers. Recently the student movement has done amazing work on
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sexism on campus by focusing on tackling lad culture and rape culture in universities but without a particular focus on key teaching and learning environments.

2. There is a false assumption that with the access of women into Higher Education and with the majority of students being women that the classrooms or labs are not spaces where sexism is felt. Women are always asked to justify their claims of feeling uncomfortable or to 'prove' that a space is hostile. It is widely assumed that learning spaces can no longer be male dominated and that women can't feel excluded given that they might outnumber men in the room. However we still hear things like 'you are good at logic for a girl', 'your handwriting is nice' said by a male lab demonstrator, we're still not feeling confident to ask questions at a research seminar, women still speak less in seminars compared to men, and still experience sexual harassment at academic conferences – this is anecdotal evidence usually shared in safe spaces. But we know that in many subjects women student numbers drop from undergraduate, to postgraduate taught to then postgraduate research level because educational spaces and academic attitudes are patriarchal and unwelcoming.
3. The NUS report on lad culture has made a breakthrough in the discourse around the sector and made progress towards fighting the denial that such a culture exists, providing a grounding for campaigning and action. A similar evidence-gathering exercise carried out on the experience of sexism specifically for teaching & learning spaces and research environments would be needed to fill a gap in the discussions and actions around sexism in academia, the progression of women scholars and discrimination against women students.

Conference Resolves:

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


Motion 207: Representative Curriculum

Submitted by: University of Sussex Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. Many modules and courses that suggest they offer a comprehensive view of contributions made by people to a field of academia exclude the contributions made by women
2. Women have offered many valuable contributions to all fields of academia and these should be recognised in our teaching
3. Many students are aware of the fact women's contributions to academia are being ignored and want to change it
4. Students who are not aware of (3) should be in the future so that this historical failing in teaching is rectified

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS Should develop a tool-kit, to be easily accessible on the NUS Connect website, that provides information and a possible framework that students can use to campaign for a curriculum that doesn't exclude women's academic contributions
 2. NUS Women's Campaign should endeavour to highlight at least one different woman's academic achievement a day on its social media for the duration of each academic year
 3. NUS Women's Campaign should endeavour to find a way to promote the issue of the exclusion of women's contributions to university regulatory bodies
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Zone: Society and Citizenship

Motion 301: Supporting the decriminalisation of sex work

Submitted by: Goldsmiths Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. Sex work refers to escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcams, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex (on and off the street).
2. Selling sex is not illegal in the UK, but it is criminalised.
3. There are a disproportionate number of disabled people, migrants, especially undocumented/semi-documented migrants, LGBT people and single parents (vast majority of whom are women) involved in sex work¹.
4. The financial cost of being disabled, childcare, medical transition and hormones, racism in the workplace, the vulnerability of undocumented migrants to exploitation in other forms of work and the prejudice faced by oppressed people undoubtedly contribute to this overrepresentation.
5. Sex work is the exchange of money for labour, like any other job. It is different because it is currently criminalised and stigmatised.
6. People should be free to choose what they do with their time, labour and bodies. If they have fewer choices, our solution should be to expand their choices, not take options away through further criminalisation.
7. The right of consenting adults to engage in sexual relations is of no business to anyone but the people involved.
8. With the rise in living costs, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some women students do sex work alongside their studies.
9. Regardless of their reasons for entering into sex work, all sex workers deserve to have their rights protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. Whether or not you enjoy a job should have no bearing on the rights you deserve while you do it.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex (and introduce the 'Nordic Model' on prostitution) are led by anti-choice, anti-LGBT right-wing fundamentalists, working with radical feminists.
2. This legislation is often brought forward in the name of anti-trafficking programmes – but it is primarily used to target immigrant sex workers for raids and deportations.
3. Legislation targeted at combatting poverty, universalising childcare and a living wage, social housing, accessible education funding and living grants, is more likely to ensure those who do not wish to work in the sex industry do not feel forced by economic circumstances.
4. Decriminalisation would ensure that sex workers feel able to report unsafe clients or violence at work without the worry of criminal repercussions, that sex workers can work together for safety, and that those who wish to leave the sex industry are not left with criminal records as a result of their job.

Conference Resolves:

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

¹ Safety First Coalition





Motion 302: Detention Centres

Submitted by: University of Birmingham Guild of Students

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. The continued racism faced by UK International Students
3. The recent stepping up of anti-immigrant rhetoric all three main parties.
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 is being drafted to make 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 recently 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. That this quote from Martin Luther King in his letter from a Birmingham Jail, 1963 holds true today: "Like a boil that can never be cured as long as it is covered up, but must be opened with all its pus flowing ugliness to the natural medicines of air and light, injustice must likewise be exposed...to the light of human conscience and the air of national opinion before it can be cured."
3. 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.
4. Universities should be spaces where students are able to express themselves without fear of detention or persecution by the government.
5. 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.

Motion 303: Disruptive Direct Action Gets the Goods!

Submitted by: University College London Union

Conference Believes:

1. That the role of Women's Officer is, as with all Union roles, a political role.
 2. The many victories of campaigns, organised by women, which have used disruptive direct action to get their goals such as the 3Cosas campaign.
 3. That women are taking a very prominent role organising within the student movement for free education.
 4. The behaviour and presentation of women in everyday life is policed by expected adherence to social norms and women are often assumed to be incapable of disruptive direct action due to their perceived need to be safe and quiet.
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Conference Further Believes:

1. Our priority as a movement is to fight our oppressions and liberate ourselves.
2. That the role of a women's officer is not primarily about looking after women students, it is to actively fight alongside women students for better conditions.
3. That women may partake in this fight however they see fit, including using disruptive direct action.
4. That women have won many of the rights they can exercise today through the tactical use of disruptive direct action.
5. That large-scale actions, such as a demonstration, can never be accessible for everyone, due to contrasting access needs.
6. That threats to safety whilst doing a direct action come overwhelmingly from the police.
7. That whilst direct action can never be accessible to everyone, this does not mean we should not support those who are able to carry it out.
8. That when carrying out a large-scale direct action, such as an occupation or a demonstration, there are a myriad of ways to be involved in the action which do not require the ability to be physically present which should be promoted as important as taking part in the action itself.
9. That the Women's Campaign should not attempt to mirror societies policing of women.
10. That free education is a resolutely feminist demand.

Conference Resolves:

1. That the NUS Women's Campaign should promote disruptive direct action to further its aims.
2. That the NUS Women's Campaign release a statement on the role of a Women's Officer in line with the politics of this motion.


Motion 304: Universal Basic Income

Submitted by: University College London Union

Conference Believes:

1. That everyone, whether engaged in waged work or unwaged work or no work, is of value to society.
2. Women make up the vast majority of low-paid work, and a lot of fundamental work – often work overwhelmingly done by women, such as child-rearing, housework and caring for elderly relatives – currently goes unpaid.
3. Everyone should be provided with enough money to live off comfortably – with the ability to afford housing, feed oneself and dependents, buy clothes, afford fuel to heat one's home and cook, public transport, internet access, a mobile phone and leisure services such as libraries and swimming pools.
4. No one should ever be forced to work if they do not want to or are unable to, and those who do not work should never be forced to live in poverty.
5. A Universal Basic Income should be provided to everyone, and should be enough to pay for all these things.
6. A Universal Basic Income could be funded by increased taxation of the wealthiest in society.

Conference Resolves:

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to widely publicise the societal need for a Universal Basic Income, and highlight how it is an extremely important feminist issue.
 2. For campaigning for a Universal Basic Income to be a priority in 2015-2016 for NUS Women's Campaign.
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Motion 305: Austerity is cutting women out

Submitted by: NUS Women's Committee

Conference Believes:

1. Women are more likely to be employed in low paid, part-time work, more likely to head a single parent household, likely to have less financial assets and more likely to live in poverty, especially in older age.
2. Female unemployment is up 4,000 on this quarter - from 56,000 to 60,000 women in the North. In contrast male unemployment in the region has fallen from 63,000 to 58,000.
3. TUC research shows just one in every forty of the net jobs added to the economy between 2008 and 2014 has been a full-time employee job and 26 in every 40 have been part-time.
4. At the same time, women's unpaid labour is worth tens of billions of pounds to the economy every year - unpaid carers (the majority of whom are women) contribute billions every year. Women in work and business also contribute billions to our economy and its growth, and are critical to its success.
5. Benefits caps, cuts to benefits and tax credits such as housing benefit and carers allowance are hitting women disproportionately hard - around three-quarters of the money being cut is coming from women's pockets.
6. The rollback on public services also affects women disproportionately, as they tend to use things like childcare and social care services more frequently and more intensively than men.

Conference Resolves:

1. Support the Fawcett Society on their Women and Work Campaign.
2. To produce a briefing on the impacts of austerity on women students.
3. Support the Women's Assembly Against Austerity Conference.

Motion 306: Support the right to education and justice for Palestine

Submitted by: NUS Women's Committee

Conference Believes:

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


Conference Resolves:


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

Motion 307: Challenge the British government with regards to their position on FGM, and the inconsistency within the law and treatment of asylum seekers fleeing FGM

Submitted by: Birkbeck Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. The treatment of asylum seekers in the UK fleeing FGM Undermines the UK government's position on FGM.
 2. The home-office must listen to the truth of these women and acknowledge their cultures.
 3. Where the government's policy is on prioritizing immigration, the government are actively demonizing women from FGM practicing cultures.
 4. Asylum seekers fleeing FGM need to be listened to and treated with care, dignity and respect, instead of being subject to discriminatory practice by the government, because immigration is a prioritized policy.
 5. There needs to be gender sensitivity in the Asylum process.
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6. The Asylum process is compromising the wholistic wellbeing of women who are fleeing FGM and seeking asylum.
 7. In the case of Maimouna Jawo who is currently seeking asylum, Maimouna is seeking asylum to ensure that she will not have to cut the children of her relatives. However the home office have refused her stay. Maimouna is currently in the middle of her appeal.
 8. The BBC covered Maimounas case in September 2013, and petitions have been signed, yet Maimouna remains a victim of the British government's inconsistency.
 9. Case study for this motion and the points below: Maimouna Jawo, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-23933437>
 10. NUS need to challenge the British government on with regards to their position on FGM, and the inconsistency within the law and treatment of asylum seekers fleeing FGM.
 11. And apply pressure to grant Maimouna and other asylum seekers fleeing FGM stay. NUS can also support all Universities and colleges to keep FGM on the agenda.

Conference Resolves:

1. To campaign against FGM.





Zone: Strong and Active Unions

Motion 401: Trans Representation within NUS

Submitted by: NUS LGBT Committee

Conference Believes:

1. Following grassroots campaigning by trans students, the LGBT Campaign have this year enacted the election promise of Robbiie Young (LGBT Officer, Open Place) to organise a Trans Students Conference.
2. Due to the guillotine falling, the motion to grant this body democratic power (504: Creation of a Dedicated Trans Conference) was not debated at NUS LGBT 2014 conference, but there is broad and deep support for such a policy change among trans students.

Conference Further Believes:

1. As a Feminist campaign, intersectionality is central to our work.
2. Trans people are a small but significant part of the women's (and more broadly, gender-equality) movement.
3. This year's Trans Students' Conference ("TransForming Education 2015") will provide an opportunity for NUS Liberation Campaigns to consult trans students on how they want trans-specific policies to be implemented and how NUS as a whole can better represents trans students within the student movement, on campus and in wider society.

Conference Resolves:

1. To make use of the opportunity at TransForming Education 2015 to consult trans students on their wishes for NUS Women's Campaign policy and structures.
2. To support LGBT Committee in implementing these wishes through the appropriate channels, in particular through the NUS' National Conference.
3. To work with future Trans Conferences, Representatives and Officers, to ensure that NUS Women's Campaign is truly an intersectional and radically trans-inclusive feminist organisation.


Motion 402: Revolution not Assimilation!


Submitted by: University College London Union

Conference Believes:

1. The long running NUS Women in Leadership campaign has focussed on getting women into top jobs and Union positions, where they are under-represented.
2. That the major victories of the women's movement have been won outside of the bureaucracy by grassroots organising.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That the thing that holds women back is not the lack of women in boardrooms, it is the structures of society which allow gendered oppression to exist.
 2. Capitalism as a system feeds off inequalities. A patriarchal society is one of these, and women are one of the groups most disadvantaged by this.
 3. Women in boardrooms and government are still going to act in the interests of the establishment and their class.
 4. These interests are very often directly counter to the interests of the majority of women.
 5. The capitalist and patriarchal system is the thing that must be beaten, not simply the lack of women at the top of it.
 6. The only way to overcome these structures is by organising women workers and students together
 7. The approach to beating the patriarchy by installing women instead of men in top jobs will not help dismantle the structures which oppress us – it teaches women that assimilation to the patriarchal norm is how to improve your own life, rather than to organise collectively to improve life for everyone.
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8. More women in more powerful positions, in Government, business and other private and public sector jobs does nothing to tackle these issues or smash the system that prevents us from rising to the top. Instead it promotes complicity and assimilation into the capitalist patriarchal system and prevents more women from breaking free from their oppression.
 9. Change in equality laws for women (and other liberation groups) didn't come by asking nicely or because Governments were concerned about welfare, equality and social mobility. They came through persistent, tiresome campaigning and fighting of women's unions and radical groups who often faced punishment, imprisonment, social exclusion, homelessness and police brutality.

Conference Resolves:

1. That instead of a Women in Leadership campaign, the Women's campaign should look to empowering women students by training them to organize collectively to overcome their structural oppressions.

Motion 403: Support us in Challenging University Management

Submitted by: University College London Union

***CN: mentions of sexual harassment, sexual violence and sexual abuse*

Conference Believes:

1. That university management are often more concerned with profits and institutional reputation than the safety and wellbeing of their students.
2. That this is demonstrated by some universities' responses to sexual harassment and sexual violence on their campuses. For example, in December 2014 UCL management shut down an exhibition of students' experiences of sexual harassment and sexual violence because one post said that a student had been sexually abused by an unnamed member of staff.
3. That tackling university management over such issues can be daunting, emotionally draining and time-consuming for Women's Officers (especially those who are unpaid) and activists.


Conference Resolves:

1. The NUS Women's Campaign should support Women's Officers and women activists in tackling university management over issues such as sexual harassment and sexual violence.
2. That the Women's Campaign should create a toolkit containing information on challenging university managers, as well as advice on organising direct action.
3. That, when called by students to do so, the Women's Campaign should be prepared to name and shame universities and managers when they do not take sexual harassment and sexual violence seriously.
4. That when direct action is taken against university management on such issues the NUS Women's Campaign should publicise this action and actively encourage others to support it.

Motion 404: Creating and Defending Closed Intersectional Spaces

Submitted by: Oxford University Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. The NUS Women's Campaign has policy that affirms that 'a feminism without intersectionality is no feminism at all' (Women in Leadership, 2014).
 2. The NUS Women's Campaign has policy that 'resolves to support and defend self-defining women only spaces' (Women-Only Spaces, 2013).
 3. Closed spaces for liberation groups are extremely important.
 4. Many Women's Officers and other women's representatives represent women who identify into liberation groups that the representatives do not identify into, and therefore may benefit from advice on how to support and defend the spaces of groups that they are not a part of.
 5. Closed intersectional spaces can be difficult to create and to defend.
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Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate the Black, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans and Disabled Representatives on the Women's Campaign Committee to provide resources and support for women's representatives and/or Unions that want to create, support, improve or defend closed intersectional spaces on their campuses.

Motion 405: A woman's place is in her union

Submitted by: NUS Women's Committee

Conference Believes:

1. NUS Women's Campaign should support the self-care of its membership.
2. Full time Women's Officers, Women sabbatical officers and women student staff can face multiple discrimination in their roles.
3. Sometimes when you are an employee is difficult due to issues of structural barriers and personal relationships within workplaces to obtain support.
4. Full time Women's Officers, Women sabbatical officers and women student staff all deserve access to external support in grievances at work.
5. Trade Unions are the best organisations to offer professional support in the workplace.

Conference Resolves:

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to work with trade unions to create material for women sabbatical officers and women student staff who work in students unions.


Motion 406: Trans Inclusion in the Women's Campaign: Siblings, Not Cisters

Submitted by: NUS Women's Committee

Conference Believes:

1. The student women's movement must strive to be a trans inclusive environment.
2. The definition of Women for the NUS Women's Campaign is "all who self-define as women, including (if they wish) those with complex gender identities which include 'woman', and those who experience oppression as women." This contains people whose preferred pronouns are not "She" or "her" (e.g "they") and that they do not identify with the term "sister".
3. The use of the term "sisters" is exclusionary of some women.
4. There are more than two genders and we should always recognise this.
5. Misgendering someone is an act of violence.
6. When women know each other within in a personal capacity or within certain cultures and religions, the term "sister" can be appropriate.
7. NUS Womens' campaign should be monitoring the number of trans students who attend events.
8. The use of the current monitoring system does not acknowledge the existence of people who identify as trans and LGB.
9. Monitoring tools are an important way to show engagement problems, but are not the only methods that should be used.

Conference Resolves:

1. To refrain from the use of "sisters" and any other binary terms throughout the campaign.
 2. To refrain from the use of "both genders" and any other terms that refers to a binary or two gender system.
 3. Update all monitoring forms used by the campaign to separate "LGBT" to "LGB" and "T".
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Motion 407: Zero-tolerance for prejudice in our Unions and NUS

Submitted by: Birkbeck Students' Union


Conference believes:

1. Trans people are routinely pilloried in the media, and in popular culture generally.
2. Trans people, particularly trans women are often portrayed as both "funny" and "scary".
3. This contributes significantly to their oppression in society, along with high suicide and hate crime rates.
4. Trans people's lives are not appropriate subject matter for humour that is produced and controlled by cisgender people.
5. Transphobic fancy dress should be met with the same disdain with which we meet other prejudiced or appropriative costumes.

Conference Resolves:

1. To issue a statement condemning the use of 'cross-dressing' as a mode of fancy dress.
2. To amend the NUS Zero Tolerance Statement policy to cover all NUS events and conferences; and to encourage Unions to ban clubs and societies from holding events which permit or encourage (cisgender) members to use 'cross-dressing' as a mode of fancy dress.²
3. To implement the zero-tolerance policy for all LGBT-phobic, racist, sexist, ableist or otherwise prejudiced (as the sitting liberation officers shall determine) speech, writing or action on the part of our members, and in particular on the part of our officers and committee members.
4. NUS Liberation Officers and appropriate members of the NEC will collaborate to bring a motion to the National Conference 2015 to make this zero-tolerance policy a permanent rule of the Union.

² The use of "cross-dressing as a fancy dress costume" must not be mistakenly equated with "cross-play", wherein a fancy dress character's gender is swapped so as to align with the identity of the individual in costume. Similarly, drag (in any direction) as an expression or exploration of queer identity is to be encouraged, since it is easily distinguished from pillory of trans people. Likewise if the intention of the costume is demonstrably that the gender element is for neither humour nor shock-value, it will be deemed acceptable.





Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

Motion 501: End Transphobia, Biphobia and Islamophobia on Campus

Trigger warning: Transphobia, biphobia, and Islamophobia

Conference Believes:

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

Conference Further Believes:

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


Conference Resolves:


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

Motion 502: Black Women and Lad Culture

Submitted by: NUS LGBT Committee

Conference Believes:

1. NUS released the report entitled "*That's what she said: Women students' experiences of 'lad culture' in higher education*" in March 2013. In the research, many women students cited lad culture as a prevalent problem that had a negative impact on their student experience.
 2. The report defined 'lad culture' as a group or 'pack' mentality residing in activities such as sport and heavy alcohol consumption and 'banter' which was often sexist, misogynistic, or homophobic.
 3. A common manifestation of "lad culture" is in the form of harassment or assault, which women students reported being subjected to during nights out.
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4. Social media pages such as “UniLad”, “Lad Bible”, “Spotted”, or “Rate your shag” (not an exhaustive list) further perpetuate lad culture in online spaces.
 5. NUS Women’s campaign has done a lot of work around lad culture, which includes the national summit on confronting lad culture in Higher Education, and the recent launch of the National Strategy Team: Lad Culture (NSTLC) which consists of a variety of representatives from education, external organisations and NUS.
 6. In December 2014, the NSTLC launched a pilot national audit into lad culture on campuses in which students’ unions were able to analyse their current policies which would then be used to create a personal strategy.

Conference Further Believes:

1. NUS Women’s campaign currently has intersectionality at its core: the academic theory coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw that states that individuals may experience multiple forms of oppression. Intersectionality is concerned with how these forms of oppression may interact with one another and affect the individual, and how the individual may be liberated from their oppression.
2. Black women experience lad culture in a different way due to their intersectional identities: they experience sexism and misogyny as well as racism. As such, lad culture has a very specific but different impact on Black women.
3. Lad culture often manifests as racism in addition to sexism, with university sports teams appropriating cultures or blacking up, for example.

Conference Resolves:

1. For NUS Women’s campaign (particularly the Women’s officer, the Black representative on committee, and the Black Women’s subcommittee) to work with external organisations to conduct specific research into how lad culture impacts upon Black Women and to collect their experiences.
2. For NUS Women’s officer to work in conjunction with NUS Black Students’ Officer to address the problem and to strive to ultimately eliminate lad culture.
3. For NUS to explicitly mention racism and how it impacts the experience of Black women in relation to Lad Culture.

<http://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/nus-launches-national-audit-into-lad-culture-on-campuses/>


Motion 503: Dear White Gay Men: Stop Appropriating Black Women

Submitted by: NUS LGBT Committee

Conference Believes:

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

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





Conference Further Believes:

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

Conference Resolves:

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

<http://time.com/2969951/dear-white-gays-stop-stealing-black-female-culture/>

Motion 504: Affordable & Secure Housing

Submitted by: University College London Union

Conference Believes:

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

Conference Resolves:

1. For the NUS Women's Campaign to publicise how having a right to secure housing in good conditions is an important feminist issue.
2. For the NUS Women's Campaign to campaign for increased social housing.
3. For the NUS Women's Campaign to support other campaigns for social housing, secure tenancies and good living conditions, such as the Focus E15 Campaign.
4. To campaign for actually affordable and secure housing.

Motion 505: *Supporting women on the front line


(Trigger Warning: Rape and Sexual Assault)


Submitted by: University of Manchester Students' Union

Conference Believes:

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

Conference Further Believes:

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

Conference Resolves:

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

Motion 506: I Heart Intersectional Consent

Submitted by: Oxford University Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. Tackling sexual violence and promoting a healthy consent culture are priorities of NUS Women's Campaign and of women's groups across the UK campuses.
2. The 'I Heart Consent' campaign aims to facilitate positive, informed and inclusive conversations and campaigns about consent in universities and colleges across the UK.
3. The 'I Heart Consent' campaign is wonderful and should be expanded.
4. The NUS Women's Campaign has consistently committed and re-committed to an intersectional approach to women's liberation.


Conference Resolves:


1. The mandate the NUS Women's Officer, and the Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans and Disabled Representatives on the Women's Campaign Committee, to look into providing resources for workshops tailored to the following groups: LGBT Women; Disabled Women.

Motion 507: #FreePeriods

Submitted by: University of East Anglia Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. That the majority of Student Union shopping outlets sell various types of sanitary products.
 2. That some SUs have started to give away sanitary products for free or sell them at a subsidised price.
 3. That tampons and towels are currently taxed by the Government at a rate of 5% as a 'luxury, non-essential item' and are hence subject to Value Added Tax (VAT).
 4. That many products are free from VAT as they are viewed as fundamental: food, prescriptions and children's clothes; but not sanitary products.
 6. That the cost of sanitary products is an unfair burden and a gendered tax on our wombs.
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7. That some students opt to take the contraceptive pill continuously to avoid a monthly cycle and the costs that come with it, despite the warnings of health risks.
 8. That no student should have to make a choice between taking the contraceptive pill to stop their period using unsuitable items, or cutting down on other essentials in their budget.
 9. That sanitary items are also crucial to health and hygiene and using homemade alternatives can put you at risk of infection.
 10. That it is unethical to charge for the upkeep of a natural bodily function, let alone ask people to give a contribution to the Government each time.

Conference Resolves:

1. To support the campaign for #FreePeriods: calling on the Government to eradicate the cost of sanitary products, let alone the VAT.
2. To mandate the Women's Officer to produce guidance for SUs on the costing and feasibility of distributing/selling free/non-profit sanitary products at their unions.
3. To encourage student unions to look at using sustainable and organic alternatives to sanitary products in their Union shopping outlets.
4. To mandate the Women's Officer to lobby the relevant Ministers over this issue.
5. We request that NUS undertake research on the impact that selling on-profit/ subsidised sanitary products has on intuitions both financially as well as on students wellbeing and satisfaction

Motion 508: Eff your beauty standards (body positivity)

Submitted by: NUS Black Women's Sub-committee

Conference Believes:

1. There has been a constant attack on black women's blackness for centuries.
2. This attack has been damaging and has caused a lot of underlying internalised hatred for dark skin
3. Black women's default appearance has been demonised by media.
4. Often times their default image has been exploited and left black women feeling like their bodies where inanimate objects, and hair, a petting zoo.
5. Dove recently released a product that further alienated dark skin by claiming the product brought a 'normal' skin tone to a darker one. Really Dove what is normal.
6. This experience is unique to black women.
7. This experience is often related to misogenoir.


Conference Resolves:


1. For NUS Women's campaign (particularly the Women's officer, the Black representative on committee, and the Black Women's subcommittee) start up a work shop promoting body positivity among fellow black women.
2. For NUS Women's officer and NUS Black Students' Officer to work in conjunction with each other to address the problem, and also make it a mandatory caucus at women's conference and black students conference.
3. For NUS Women's Campaign to create a campaign against the brands that feed the alienation of black women and darker skin.

Motion 509: The Black Womans Experience of Sexual Violence

Submitted by: Coleg Gwent Students' Union

Conference Believes:

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

Conference Resolves:

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

Motion 510: 'Time to Talk' about women

Submitted by: University of East Anglia Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. That 20% of higher education students consider themselves to suffer from mental health difficulties.
2. That women students and LBTQIAP students in particular are disproportionately affected by problems relating to mental health.
3. That NUS and their affiliated institutions should provide support and services to students affected by mental health.
4. That current mental health support and awareness, both nationally and within individual institutions, is not sufficient for women and LBTQIAP students and only perpetuates existing stigma around mental health


Conference Resolves:


1. To mandate NUS to undertake research aiming to establish the prevalence of the effect which mental health has on women students and LBTQIAP students in both Further and Higher Education that focuses on women students and LBTQIAP students.
2. To strongly encourage a standard for LBTQIAP-friendly mental health services in HE and FE institutions.
3. To strongly encourage institutions to ensure that LBTQIAP students are aware that there are mental health services available to them without judgment.

Motion 511: Challenging the Stigma with mental illness

Submitted by: Birkbeck Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. Rehabilitation of women students and prospective students, that have been sectioned, back in to education and study:
 2. Colleges and Students unions should work closely with early intervention psychiatric teams and such to prevent relapses within students on campus who may have experienced, and or experience psychotic and manic episodes.
 3. To also address depression and anxiety problems which are rampant in society, and in-particular students and young people.
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4. Students unions should have a duty to offer such support and direct contact with such organisations via their students unions, independent of university and students union counselling services.

Conference Resolves:

1. To make mental health of women a priority on the next year.

Motion 512: Contracted staff in students unions (Security, builders, maintenance) as well as university staff must undergo zero tolerance to harassment training

Submitted by: Birkbeck Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. There needs to be emphasis against all kinds of discrimination: Sexism, Transphobia, Racism, Homophobia.
2. Banter is an excuse in social and communal areas in students unions. It is also an excuse while on the job with colleagues. Justifying harassment with the word banter in students unions should not be accepted as a culture and discouraged.

Conference Resolves:

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

Motion 513: Subsidised childcare and care for all parents and carers (Women and Men)

Submitted by: Birkbeck Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. With Fees for education being high, the cost of childcare and care may become a barrier to education for students and prospective students.
2. Single parents and carers, are most likely to be affected.
3. Individuals and families from low SES are likely to be disadvantaged even further.
4. Provision on subsidies would alleviate the strain on such families and individuals.
5. Sabbatical officers and union staff could specifically fundraise to contribute towards subsidies for said students and prospective students within and pursuing education. And colleges should allocate funding specifically for said families and individuals.


Conference resolves


1. For NUS to promote the cause nationally, apply pressure on the government and support students unions with fundraising and applying pressure to their universities and colleges.

Motion 513: The Tax on Menstruation to Be Abolished. Period.

Submitted by: University of Bath Students' Union, University of Bristol Students' Union, University of Oxford Students' Union

Conference Believes:


1. One of the most important aspects of our lives is personal dignity and hygiene, which menstruation can make more difficult to maintain due to biological predisposition.
 2. Sanitary products are not a "luxury" and are thus taxed at 5% VAT.
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3. By labelling women's sanitary products as "luxurious" without extending the definition to men's sanitary product, the Government is consciously discriminating people who menstruate with no consideration of adequately catering to their health and hygiene needs.
 4. The fact that cake and men's shaving razors are considered "a necessity", whilst fundamentally important intimate products, such as tampons, are not, goes against all ideas of social equality.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The products, constituting the government's definition of "Women's sanitary products" are a necessity for those who menstruate, most of whom are women, and should be treated as such.
2. As Jyoti Sanghera, chief of the United Nations Human Rights Office for Economic and Social Issues, exclaimed, the stigma around menstrual hygiene is "a violation of several human rights, most importantly the right to human dignity." As most people who menstruate identify as women, conference believes this is of utmost importance for NUS Women's Campaign, and the women students it represents.
3. In low-income communities, covering hygiene costs can be a serious problem, which is mostly targeted towards women, as they make up the majority of people who experience menstruation.
4. Sanitary products are essential for the emotional, physical and social functioning of women across the globe – UNICEF estimated that 10% of African girls do not attend school during their menstruation cycle, while in Bangladesh 73% of female factory workers miss on average 6 days of work (and pay) a month because of their period. The UK could change the way humanitarian aid looks at sanitary provision if we use our global influence and change their categorisation as "a luxury".
5. The matter is one of principle. These economic laws discriminate all who menstruate for an aspect of their life they have no control over, and the tax reduction is not enough. Legislating a change of institution's attitudes towards the menstrual taboo could instigate a change in social attitudes as well.


Conference Resolves:

1. As representatives of students affected by menstruation, the NUS Women's Campaign to use its social power and lobbying resources to push for the abolishment of the 5% VAT tax on "Women's Sanitary Products" as a national and local level, by changing the categorisation of the commodity from "luxurious" to "necessary".
 2. NUS Women's campaign to encourage SU's to work for the absorption of the tax on sold products in their University's municipality or businesses and, if possible, the provision of free sanitary products to all students who need them.
 3. NUS Women's Campaign to provide resources in the form of toolkits and workshops, on skills such as lobbying, motion writing and campaigning to Unions who take up the campaign.
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