

UJS Conference 2015 Policy Document

Title: CO1 Opposing institutionalised antisemitism in NUS

Proposer: Dario Celaschi

Secunder: Coco Leaman

What's the idea?

1. NUS has launched an inquiry into whether it is institutionally racist
2. Any investigation into racism should include antisemitism
3. There is a history of antisemitism within NUS with Jewish members of NEC receiving abuse for years due to their Jewish identity, famously Luciana Berger now an MP was forced resign over this.
4. In 2012 the UJS stall at NUS Conference was vandalised with stickers covering the Star of David in our logo.
5. Jewish students are the only minority group which is not directly represented by any of the NUS liberation campaigns.
6. The only representation of Jewish students in NUS comes via external pressure from UJS.
7. Until the structures of NUS are changed to provide a clear place for Jewish students within their liberation structures there will be no way to properly challenge antisemitism within NUS.
8. There are many friends of UJS and Jewish students among the leadership of NUS but this does not address the concerns raised in this motion.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS is to commend NUS on opening this investigation.
2. UJS is also to publicly call on NUS UK and its liberation structures to expand this inquiry to cover antisemitism
3. UJS calls on NUS to ensure that it provides a place for Jewish students within its liberation structures

Title: CO2 Counter Extremism

Proposer: Dario Celaschi

Seconder: Coco Leaman

What's the idea?

1. The government has released its counter extremism strategy for UK campuses: Prevent.
2. Prevent as a strategy has been widely condemned by NUS and students' union due to concerns of racism and Islamophobia.
3. Radicalisation and extremism is a concern both to the UK and particularly the Jewish community as previous targets in recent years have included a kosher supermarket in Paris, a Jewish museum in Brussels, a synagogue in Copenhagen, and a Jewish school in Toulouse.
4. The NUS Students Not Suspects campaign has included working closely with groups which are not compatible with NUS' policies on anti-racism, anti-fascism, and antisemitism, such as CAGE.
5. NUS President, Megan Dunn, has said that she will not work with CAGE but other NUS officers have partnered with them over the last few months.
6. It is important that the concerns of racism and Islamophobia are taken seriously, but this does not defeat the need for proper measures to tackle radicalisation.
7. The student movement should not be fighting concerns of Islamophobia by working with groups that are feared to have had links with antisemitism.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS to work with NUS and other organisations to discuss how the concerns of Jewish students can be met in a way that ensures their safety, but does not result in Islamophobia or any other form of racism

Title: CO4 Campaigning for mental health awareness

Proposer: Louise Cohen

Seconder: Daisy Bogod

What's the idea?

1. For UJS to commit to mental health awareness and education

How do you want it to happen?

1. To commit to running a mental health campaign.
2. Educate students on what to say and what not to say to a person with a mental illness.
3. Educate students on the key signs that a friend could have a mental illness.
4. To create an open space on campus' to ensure that mental health can be spoken about.
5. For individual J-Socs to be able to run mental health events such as tea afternoons or yoga sessions especially around exam and coursework deadline times.

Title: CO5 Support NUS #cutthecosts campaign

Proposer: Izzy Lenga

Seconder: Liron Velleman

What's the idea?

1. On July 8th 2015, the Government announced it was scrapping maintenance grants for students commencing 16/17. The implications of this mean that poorer students will graduate with more debt than their richer counterparts which could be up to £51,000.
2. NUS' priority campaign this year has been #cutthecosts, with hundreds of students unions from across the UK getting involved.
3. NUS has a whole range of resources to assist students and student leaders who wish to partake in the campaign.
4. On December 10th 2015, campaign leader and NUS President announced that due to the tireless work of the campaign, an early day motion has been laid in Parliament against the scrapping of maintenance grants.
5. The success of the campaign so far has been a testament to the power of the student voice. UJS has traditionally been a pioneer in championing the value of student voice.
6. UJS should show its support as these cuts will have an effect on both Jewish students and other students across the UK.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS to publically support NUS' #cutthecosts campaign.
2. UJS to help facilitate and provide resources and contacts to J-Socs who want to get involved with the campaign.
3. UJS to encourage its members to get involved with the campaign with ways including but not limited to writing to local MPs, writing/ reading blogs/ tweeting support/ wearing stickers/ taking photos/ attending #cutthecosts events, etc).
4. UJS to educate its members on the consequences certain cuts will have on students both present and future.
5. For individual J-Socs to be able to run mental health events such as tea afternoons or yoga sessions especially around exam and coursework deadline times.

Title: UJ1 UJS and Jewish Camps USA

Proposer: Jordan Newfield

Seconder: Gabby Kingsley

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What's the idea?:

Title: UJS and Jewish Organisations

What's the idea?

1. UJS should work with organisations which promote similar values of peer-leadership and cross- communalism.
2. UJS should also encourage and support organisations that can further benefit students be that through programming which can engage students and even boost their CVs.
3. The way UJS partners with external organisations should be based on if that organisation is a charity or profit making.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS will work with organisations to enhance and engage relationships with JSocs
2. UJS should encourage JSocs to liaise with organisations to hold joint events for appropriate sponsorships.
3. Any partnership with profit making organisations should be in the form of sponornships and not free advertising
4. UJS should advise Jsocs of all external organisations who may be willing to sponsor events.

Title: UJ2 Rescheduling the UJS Conference at a more inclusive time for students

Proposer: Luisa Peress

Secunder: Jonathan Manevitch

What's the idea?

UJS Conference is scheduled at a time that is inconvenient for a number of groups of students. Amongst others, EU and International students that go home over the winter holidays, as well as those studying at Scottish Universities where exams are held during this time, are affected by this. This means that these student groups are at risk of not being adequately represented at UJS conference, which leads to a democratic deficit.

How do you want it to happen?

1. We propose for a Committee comprised of Students and UJS Staff to be set up to investigate the feasibility of more inclusive scheduling of UJS Conference in the following years.
2. The aforementioned Committee is to find a date range that is more inclusive for subsequent UJS Conferences to be held during this time

Title: UJ3 Policy submission to UJS Conference

Proposer: Liron Velleman

Secunder: Izzy Lenga

What's the idea?

1. UJS has a proud history of passing policies on a wide range of issues at its conference.
2. Policy submitted at UJS has helped to shape the organisation it is today.
There has been little advertising this year specifically targeted at submission of motions.
3. UJS members should have opportunities to think about and discuss policies and motions that they could bring to UJS Conference.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS should encourage J-Socs to hold policy forums prior to the policy submission deadline in order for UJS members to have an opportunity to discuss potential ideas.
2. UJS should provide a guide to how to submit policy, together with current UJS policy, which should be distributed at the beginning of the Conference process.

Title: UJ4 Glorification of terror on campus

Proposer: Liron Velleman

Seconder: Izzy Lenga

What's the idea?

1. Between September 13th 2015 and December 9th 2015, there has been a spate of stabbings, shootings and car ramming incidents that have caused 22 deaths, 90 stabbings, 33 shootings, 14 car rammings, 215 wounded of which 21 were serious, of Israelis.
2. The loss of any life in this long lasting conflict is deeply regrettable.
3. UJS is committed to a two state solution, where a secure Israel flourishes alongside an independent Palestinian state with the aim of ensuring peace for all those involved in the conflict.
4. A number of campuses across the UK, including LSE, Leeds have seen vigils and actions taken place to 'commemorate the loss of Palestinian civilians'.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS should condemn the glorification of terror and the killing of innocent civilians both in Israel and around the world.
2. UJS should continue to highlight the loss of lives caused by these acts of terror, including the continuation of the Shed Some Light campaign.
3. UJS should encourage and give guidance to J-Socs on how they can engage with their Student Unions and Universities to ensure that these events that glorify terror on campus do not occur in the future.

Title: UJ5 Reaffirming UJS commitment to Anti-Racism and Anti-Fascism (ARAF) campaigning

Proposer: Izzy Lenga

Seconder: Liron Velleman

What's the idea?

1. UJS has always fought for ARAF rights in the wider student movement.
Students in the UK have seen a vast increase in antisemitism and Islamophobia in recent years.
2. Fringe far right groups have continued to have a presence on campus from National Action in Leeds and on 21 other campuses to individual incidents such as the 'Hitler Was Right' poster found on Birmingham campus.
3. Every student, regardless of faith, gender, ethnicity or sexuality has the right to walk around campus free from fear and persecution.
4. NUS is currently undergoing an institutional Racism review and many Jewish students often feel uncomfortable and unrepresented within the national student movement.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS should reaffirm its belief in the need to stand up against racists and fascists on campus, in our student movement and in wider society.
2. UJS should work with relevant bodies including but not limited to the police, CST and campus security to ensure the safety of Jewish students on campus.
3. UJS should continue to lobby NUS to take the threat of racists and fascists on campus seriously.
4. UJS should endeavour to work closely with NUS on combatting hate crime and bullying over social media
5. UJS should endeavour to work with NUS in their investigation into institutional racism within NUS and ensure that antisemitism is thoroughly investigated and included in the review.

Title: JC1 A National Consultation on Inclusivity in J-Soc

Proposer: Ben Carr

Seconder: Joel Salmon

What's the idea?

1. The creation of egalitarian student groups separate to J-Soc has led to concerns about the separation of Jewish students on campus based on denomination or religious affiliation.
2. The reasons for the groups being set up include a lack of inclusivity and diversity in J-Soc activities. It is also due to an unsatisfactory appreciation of the many types of Jewish practice in the UK.
3. In order to prevent the further segregation of Jewish students on campus, UJS needs to understand what can be done to make J-Soc more inclusive and diverse, especially for Jewish students of different denominations.

How do you want it to happen?

1. A consultation shall be carried out involving all Jewish students and relevant organisations to understand in more detail the issues and how UJS can lead the way for J-Soc to better cater for all types of Jewish students.
2. The consultation may make recommendations based on its findings which will primarily inform J-Soc committee training and UJS campaigns and events.

Title: JC2 Supporting smaller J-Socs

Proposer: James Wilder

Seconder: Jonathan Shapiro

What's the idea?

1. UJS should actively promote the development of smaller Jsocs by providing more monetary input to help them out further.

How do you want it to happen?

Provide more money for smaller J-Socs for the many events that are put on by the hardworking committees. Without this, the events arranged are very limited in what can be achieved with the budgets they have.