

Motion 1: Shahrokh Zamani and Reza Shahabi solidarity

Proposed by: Daniel Cooper

Seconded by: Shreya Paudel, James Elliot, Vonnie Sandlan, Sai Enghlert

NEC Believes:

1. The ongoing imprisonment and severe mistreatment of Iranian trade unionists Shahrokh Zamani (painters' union) and Reza Shahabi (Tehran bus workers' union).

NEC Resolves:

2. To express our solidarity with comrades Shahrokh Zamani and Reza Shahabi, write to the Iranian government and embassy demanding their release, ask Constituent Members to do the same.

Motion 2: Iraqi Solidarity

Proposed by: Daniel Cooper

Seconded by: Shreya Paudel, Clifford Fleming.

NEC Believes:

1. The ongoing humanitarian crisis and sectarian polarisation in Iraq - which has resulted in thousands of Yazidi Kurds being massacred.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That the people of Iraq have suffered for years under the sectarian and brutally repressive dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, the US/UK invasion and occupation, the current sectarian regime linked to both the US and Iran, and now the barbaric repression of the "Islamic State" organisation.
2. That rape and other forms of sexual violence are being used as weapons against women in IS-occupied areas, while minorities are being ethnically cleansed.

NEC Resolves:

1. To work with the International Students' Campaign to support Iraqi, Syrian and other international students in the UK affected by this situation.
2. To campaign in solidarity with the Iraqi people and in particular support the hard-pressed student, workers' and women's organisations against all the competing nationalist and religious-right forces.
3. To support Iraqis trying to bridge the Sunni-Shia divide to fight for equality and democracy, including defence of the rights of the Christian and Yazidi-Kurd minorities.
4. To condemn the IS and support the Kurdish forces fighting against it, while expressing no confidence or trust in the US military intervention.
5. Encourage students to boycott anyone found to be funding the IS or supplying them with goods, training, travel or soldiers.
6. To make contact with Iraqi and Kurdish organisations, in Iraq and in the UK, in order to build solidarity and to support refugees.
7. To issue a statement on the above basis.

Motion 3: Fighting for free education and decent jobs for all

Proposed by: Daniel Cooper

Seconded by: Megan Dunn, Clifford Fleming, James Elliot, Kirsty Haigh, Maddy Kirkman, Abdi-aziz Suleiman, Dario Celaschi, Sai Englert, Zekarias Negussue, Malia Bouattia, Vonnie Sandlan, Shreya Paudel, Edmund Schluessel

NEC Believes:

1. National Conference 2014 voted by a substantial majority, after a long and passionate debate, to "oppose and campaign against all methods of charging students for education – including tuition fees and a 'graduate tax' which is nothing more than a euphemism for 'student debt'." It voted "to make the case for free education and demand that free, accessible, quality education, and decent wages, public services and benefits, are funded by:

"a. Ending tax evasion and avoidance and cracking down on tax havens

"b. Imposing serious taxes on the incomes, inheritance and capital gains of the rich

"c. Taking the banks, and their wealth, under democratic control"
2. National conference voted to campaign around the slogan "Fund decent jobs for all", by fighting for "expanded public services to create socially useful, secure, well-paid jobs", with associated demands around job security and the Living Wage.
3. Since National Conference, a coalition of student groups & campaigns have come together to call a national demo on November 19th under the banner of 'Free education: no fees, no cuts, no debt.'

NEC Further Believes:

1. With a year until the general election, there are clear opportunities to make substantial gains for students, if we put out a clear message and mobilise the movement.
2. Based on policy passed by conference, we should be campaigning for a free, well-funded education system at every level and the creation of secure jobs with decent rights and a living wage. These policies entail a radical redistribution of wealth and power by taxation of the rich and big business.

NEC Resolves:

1. To affirm that NUS will campaign on these themes over the next year, using slogans such as "Fund free education – tax the rich" and "Fund decent jobs for all – tax the rich" when we march with the TUC on October 18th.
 2. To formally endorse the national demonstration on November 19 and encourage unions to mobilise for it, and to advise the demonstration organisers on necessary safety measures to put in place
 3. To also emphasise how cuts, unemployment and debt hit the most oppressed hardest, and the liberation aspect of these policies.
 4. To issue a press release setting out support for the demonstration and the politics in this motion.
 5. To support a 'student bloc' at the demonstration of the Tory party conference and a lobby at Labour Party conference around these themes.
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Amendment 3.1 - Add

Proposed by: Aaron Kiely

Seconded by: Sai Englert, Zek, Malia, Fran Cowling, Abdi-Aziz Suleiman, Piers Telemacque

NUS NEC Believes:

1. The TUC are organising a national march and rally on Saturday 18 October under the banner 'Britain needs a pay rise'.
2. NUS National Conference 2014 resolved to "support a TUC national demonstration focused on pathways to work and fair and sustainable jobs ahead of the 2015 general election."
The NUS should put serious effort into mobilising students to attend the TUC national demo and have a visible presence on the day.

NUS NEC Resolves:

1. To organise a student block on the TUC national demonstration on Saturday 18 October.
To mobilise students across the UK to join the protest by producing leaflets & posters and using NUS' website, social media and email lists.

Amendment 3.2 - Add

Proposed by: Edmund Schluessel

Seconded by:

NEC Believes:

1. At its annual Congress at the end of May 2014, the University and College Union invited NUS to call jointly with UCU a national demonstration to take place in Autumn 2014 "against the continuing privatisation of UK higher education and a return to a publicly funded and democratically accountable sector".
2. As of this writing the forming policies of all major UK political parties call for continued austerity after the 2015 general election.

NEC further believes:

1. Any national movement against austerity in education must be in the hands of a broad base of students and workers in order to be a success.

NEC resolves

1. To write to UCU inviting them to support & take part in organizing the student demonstration called for this date.

Motion 4: Palestine-Israel: Building solidarity

Proposed by: Daniel Cooper

Seconded by: Shreya Paudel, James Elliott

NUS NEC believes:

1. That there can be no meaningful peace in Israel-Palestine without some measure of real justice for the Palestinians: minimally, an end to the occupation, a really independent Palestinian state with the same rights as Israel, and aid from Israel and its allies to make that state viable.
2. That in pursuit of these goals we should be building links with activists in Palestine and Israel fighting for peace on the basis of justice, self-determination and mutual recognition.

NUS NEC further believes:

1. That the Workers' Advice Centre-Ma'an, a radical trade union organising Israeli (Jewish and Arab) and Palestinian workers together in struggle, while also fighting the occupation, is the kind of organisation we should be supporting.
2. WAC-Ma'an is particularly important because it is currently leading struggles by Palestinian workers in the Israeli settlements for the right to organise - eg at Zarfaty Garage and Sodastream.

NUS NEC resolves:

1. To promote the work of WAC-Ma'an.
2. To donate £200 to the Zarfaty Garage struggle and £200 to the Sodastream struggle
3. To seek to raise at least £2,000 for WAC-Ma'an over the next year.
4. To ask the Vice President Society & Citizenship and other interested NEC members to convene a working group of any interested NEC members to produce a report for discussion at the next NEC on Palestinian and Israeli organisations to build links with (particularly but not limited to student and workers' organisations), with the aim of producing a campaign guide for student unions by the end of the year.
5. To also include the organisations and networks of Israelis protesting against war and occupation by refusing to serve in the IDF, many of them sixth form students.

Amendment 4.1 - Add

Proposed by: Aaron Kiely

Seconded by: Sai Englert, Malia, Zek, Fran Cowling, Abdi-Aziz Suleiman, Piers Telemacque

NEC Believes:

1. The principal manufacturing plant for the SodaStream Drinksmaker is located in an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank.
 2. The settlement, called Ma'ale Adumim, is built on land stolen from Palestinians and is one of the largest in the West Bank. It is built on the remains of seven Palestinian villages, which were destroyed so that it could be built.
 3. The SodaStream plant brings financial benefits to Ma'ale Adumim and helps to cement the occupation through the economic strengthening of the settlement.
Municipal tax paid by SodaStream goes to the Ma'ale Adumim Municipality, which uses these funds solely to support the growth and development of the illegal settlement.
 4. Settlements deny the Palestinians their right to self-determination, to build their own state on their own land, and to create their own factories and jobs, and run their own economy.
 5. All companies which locate in settlements, including SodaStream, are given tax breaks by the Israeli government. SodaStream made a decision to locate its production facilities in an area under illegal military occupation and by doing so, it became complicit in the occupation.
 6. By locating its factory on a settlement, illegally built on occupied land, SodaStream is complicit in violating UN Resolution 242 which calls for Israel's withdrawal from these territories.
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7. Israel's occupation of the West Bank has destroyed the Palestinian economy. In October 2013, the World Bank estimated that the current loss to the Palestinian economy as a result of the occupation was \$3.4billion. As a result, jobs in the West Bank are scarce. Forced to work for the occupier, they are seen as a source of cheap labour and exploited. In 2011, a survey revealed that 82% of Palestinians would leave their job in the settlements if a suitable alternative was available.

NUS NEC Resolves:

1. To join the international boycott of the SodaStream Drinksmaker by targeting stores and chains which stock the product with a campaign of letter writing and peaceful protests.
2. Provide Students' Unions with a factsheet on SodaStream's complicity with the illegal occupation of the West Bank alongside a campaign toolkit.

Motion 5: Getting Out The Vote

Proposed by:	Joe Vinson
Seconded by:	Robbie Young, Poppy Wilkinson, Amy Smith, Michael Rubin, Hugh Murdoch, Chantel Le Carpentier
Committees:	NEC

NEC Believes:

1. The General Election is going to be held on Thursday 7th May 2015, less than a year away.
2. The European Parliament elections were held on Thursday 22nd May 2014.
3. The European Parliament elections were regrettably a success for the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), and that the far-right, anti-immigration, homophobic and racist organisation took the most seats.
4. The British National Party (BNP) lost both of their seats, and although this is to be celebrated, the rise of UKIP is still terrifying.
5. The values of NUS promote inclusivity, equality and fairness, and that UKIP's policies are in direct contradiction to those values.
6. During the European Parliament elections in 2010, NUS sent out an email on polling day to every student email address on all of our databases warning them of the dangers of the BNP and UKIP.
7. That this email encouraged students to go out and cast their vote, but warned them against doing so for the BNP or UKIP.
8. This government is removing the block registration of students living in university accommodation, effectively disenfranchising thousands of students in a general election
9. This government has launched an attack on students while simultaneously removing their right to recourse as seen in the lobbying bill and individual electoral registration
10. NUS has not platformed the BNP as a racist and fascist organisation.
11. NUS NEC has recently determined UKIP to be a racist party.
12. NUS must play a big role in preventing the rise of racism, fascism and homophobia in society, especially in our country's political system.

NEC Resolves:

1. For the National President to email every student contact we have (including but not limited to the NUS Extra database and the CRM) on polling day of the General Election, urging them to use their votes but warning them of the dangers of the BNP and UKIP and urging them to boycott these political parties at the ballot box.
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2. NUS will encourage and support Student Unions in electoral registration drives developing resources encouraging students to register and offering clear guidance about Student Unions role in ensuring students can vote

Motion 6: Defeating the rise in anti-Semitism

Proposed by: Dario P Celaschi

Seconded by: Colum McGuire, Ste Smith, Joe Vinson, Charlotte Agran, Miki Vyse, Beth Button

NEC Believes:

1. Students' unions should remain safe spaces for all students where different views can be challenged in an open, supportive and constructive environment, without anyone feeling threatened.
2. Hate crimes against minorities in the UK and in Europe are on the rise. LGBT hate crime has rose year on year rising by 1% each year since 2009 now accounting for nearly 15% of all reported hate crimes in the UK [1], Islamophobic hate crime rising 400% in the week after the killing of Lee Rigby [2].
3. That the Macpherson report of the Lawrence Inquiry's final report stated that "a racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or the other person".
4. That according to the Community Security Trust, between January to June 2014 there were 304 anti-Semitic incidents in the UK, a 36% rise from the same period in 2013. Furthermore, during the latest war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, there were at least 240 anti-Semitic incidents recorded in the UK alone.
5. Worldwide, during the same period there have been a multitude of anti-Semitic incidents including synagogues being firebombed in Paris, and Jewish community centres in Europe being attacked. In Britain, a rabbi was attacked nearby to a Jewish boarding school. In Australia, a bus carrying Jewish schoolchildren was targeted by teenagers who boarded the bus, shouted "Heil Hitler" and threatened to slit the children's throats.
6. Figures suggest that as a result of the recent upsurge in anti-Semitic hate crime in the UK, 2014 may end up as having one of the highest annual totals since CST began recording anti-Semitism in the UK, in 1984.
7. Debates around Israel-Palestine are highly contested and have resulted at times to a deterioration of good and healthy campus relations.
8. Dialogue is the best way to solve conflict on campus and in the wider world. NUS plays a vital role in creating a safe space on campus for dialogue and discussion.

NEC Further Believes:

1. NUS has a history of championing ARAF campaigns and supporting all students of minority backgrounds during their time in education.
2. All forms of racism are abhorrent and should be opposed.
3. Anti-Semitism is a specific form of racism, relating to Jewish people and Judaism.

NEC Resolves:

1. To strengthen existing interfaith initiatives and to encourage the fostering of good relations between religious groups on campus.
2. To ensure the safety of our members as a fundamental priority during their time in Further or Higher Education.
3. To provide training, tools and support to officers on how to deal with conflict on campus.
4. To reaffirm NUS's strong opposition to anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all forms of racism and discrimination.

[1] http://www.stonewall.org.uk/what_we_do/research_and_policy/9286.asp

[2] <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/07/uk-report-anti-muslim-hate-crime-rising-20147512135922796.html>

Amendment 6.1 - Add

Proposed by: Sai Englert

Seconded by: Gordon Maloney, Vonnie Sandlan

NEC believes:

1. At the 4th August meeting, an NUS NEC member made claims of local BDS campaigns being used against individual Jewish students and their religious freedom.
2. The national Union of Jewish Students reproduced these claims in a statement attacking the BDS campaign
3. These claims have since been contradicted by the local Jewish societies in question.
4. Sheffield UJS contacted both UJS and the NUS NEC member in question clarifying the situation and expressing concern over the political mobilisation of anti-Semitism.
5. No apologies have been issued by either the UJS or the NEC member, despite the UJS deleting the information from its website.
6. The attempt at mobilising anti-Semitism for political purposes is not an isolated event, taking place inside the NUS.
7. During the recent attack by Israel on Gaza, several other such episodes have taken place. The most striking example was that of a Zionist Harvard graduate who used fake profiles (often impersonating people of colour) to post thousands of anti-Semitic messages on online discussion threads. (www.commondreams.org/hambaconeggs)
8. That Anti-Semitism is a form of oppression, which, like all oppressions, has real and direct consequences on those who it is directed against.
9. That fighting oppression is a serious part of NUS' political work in the student movement, and should therefore be taken seriously by its members and elected officers.
10. That the fabrication of examples of anti-Semitic occurrences in order to bolster a particular political agenda, has negative effect on the well being of Jewish students –whatever their political views – and on the broader cause of fighting anti-Semitism on campus and in society.
11. That there is no place for the political manipulation of real oppressions on the NUS' committees.

Motion 7: Care Leavers and education

Proposed by: Vonnie Sandlan

Seconded by: Shreya Paudel, Kirsty Haigh, Gordon Maloney, Edmund Schluessel, Dario Celaschi, Ste Smith, James Elliott, Susuana Antubam, Sai Englert, Aaron Kiely, Kae Smith, Colum McGuire

NEC Believes:

- 1) Policy passed at NUS National Conference this year mandated NUS officers to work with the Buttle Trust on the Quality Mark and Who Cares? Trust on the HE handbook. Since National Conference neither organisation is continuing this work.
 - 2) The Buttle Quality Mark is now no longer being supported in England & Wales, but has been funded until the end of 2014/15 by the Scottish Funding Council for institutions in Scotland.
 - 3) The Buttle Quality Mark was the only framework by which support was measured for students who had been or who remain in the care of the local authority.
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- 4) The Who Cares? Trust HE handbook compared and contrasted the support available for potential students who had been or who remain in the care of the local authority and was the only complete source of information. Due to funding issues, it is not being updated for the foreseeable future.

NEC Further Believes:

- 1) In Scotland, the worst outcomes for LAAC&YP (looked after and accommodated children & young people) are for those who are :
 - i) looked after at home (under a supervision order but remain in the family home with support from external agencies such as social work), and:
 - ii) looked after in kinship care (placed with relatives, usually grandparents but can also be Aunts, Uncles, siblings)
- 2) In England & Wales, these children & young people are not categorised as 'looked after' and therefore are not counted in statistics and are not catered for in policies covering widening access or support for care leavers.
- 3) In Scotland, historically widening access agreements have been based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. However, research has demonstrated that the majority of children's houses and foster care residencies are outwith SIMD20 areas and therefore are not counted in widening access policies.
- 4) There are multiple and complex reasons for children & young people being placed in care, the vast majority of which relate to instability at home.
- 5) Care Leavers across the UK campaigning for better provision have referenced upwards of 50 placements throughout their childhood, this constant flux disrupts attachments and friendships made, feelings of security and interdependency and impacts on the educational attainment of those in care.
- 6) Across all liberation groups, those with care experience are disproportionately represented. Care leavers are the most discriminated against demographic in our society.
- 7) Support varies widely between institutions as there is no nationally standardised guidance for supporting care-experienced students.
- 8) Most LAAC&YP progressing to tertiary education enter through colleges, however evidence suggests that 40% of these students do not complete their course.

NEC resolves:

- 1) For NUS UK to build on existing research into the education experience of care-experienced young people.
- 2) To work with all agencies involved in setting the policies for access to education, retention of students, support of students etc to ensure that the specific needs of care leavers are addressed in policy.
- 3) To utilise our research to produce a recommendation for national standard guidance and to lobby funding bodies to embed this as statutory support.
- 4) To consult with students with care experience and to investigate the benefits of appointing a care leavers rep within NUS democratic structures.

Motion 8: Stand Against National Action

Proposed by: Charlotte Agran

Seconded by: Joe Vinson, Michael Rubin, Dario Celaschi, Robbie Young, Raechel Matthey

NEC Believes:

1. Campus cohesion is only achievable when groups and individuals are free from discrimination and hate, and remain safe from targeted intolerance and violence.
 2. Groups and/or speakers who come on to campus and incite hatred or violence against an individual or group of people threaten the wellbeing and safety of students.
 3. Britain First is a Nationalist splinter group of the BNP that spouts fascist and xenophobic ideology, terrorising migrant communities particularly the Muslim community and propagates hatred and violence.
 4. National Action (a neo-Nazi group of students) are a hate group who are working for a 'White Britain'. They have a deeply racist, Islamophobic, xenophobic and anti-Semitic agenda.
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5. National Action are trying to establish themselves on campuses across the U.K. (including but not limited to: UCL, London Metropolitan, University of Birmingham, University of Cambridge and University of Warwick) and thus NUS has a responsibility to tackle their rise in significance amongst the student population.
 6. National Action supports a revisionist history of the Holocaust; previously they have tweeted photographs of the crematorium in Auschwitz and stated that "96 bodies per over a day? Sounds like BS [bulls**t] to me...." and have re-tweeted memes of Hitler with the statement "Gas Yourself" with their response of "Not much else to say....".
 7. Groups and/or speakers who incite Holocaust denial are a threat to peaceful campus environments and can work to incite hatred in many forms including but not limited to: anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia and disablism.
 8. Holocaust denial may include publicly denying or calling into doubt the use of principal mechanisms of destruction (such as gas chambers, mass shooting, starvation and torture) or the intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people.
 9. Holocaust denial is inseparable from Holocaust revisionism which extends itself to the process of Holocaust inversion.

NEC Resolves:

1. To reaffirm NUS' opposition to all forms racism and xenophobia.
2. To raise awareness and educate officers of the hateful messages pedalled by groups like National Action and Britain First.
3. To work to support all students and groups who are threatened from the hateful agenda spouted by Britain First and National Action.
4. To mandate the VP Society and Citizenship to ensure that all students' union officers are educated on the threats that extremist groups pose to our communities.
5. To mandate the VP Welfare to ensure NUS provides support for students' unions to make informed decisions about controversial and contentious external speakers who are invited to campus by societies and officers, using the 2011 NUS guidance on managing the risks associated with external speakers.

Motion 9: Protecting vital hardship funding in Wales.

Proposed by: Beth Button

Seconded by: Megan Dunn, Colum McGuire, Toni Pearce, Rebecca Hall, Grace Burton, Raechel Matthey

NEC Believes:

13. On the 21st August, the Welsh government announced it would be completely scrapping the hardship fund it provides Higher Education institutions in Wales- the Financial Contingency Fund, effective immediately for the academic year 2014/15.
 14. The Financial contingency fund (FCF) provides vital financial support to over 6000 students who find themselves struggling financially mid-way through the year, with a current budget allocation of £2.1 million provided to institutions from the Welsh government.
 15. Previous NUS Wales research found that 9% of students in Wales rely on contingency funding, and of those who dropped out of University, 55% stated financial hardship as the cause.
 16. The Financial Contingency Fund is usually accessed by vulnerable students/ priority groups- such as those who cannot rely on parental support, disabled students, student carers, student parents, students from low income backgrounds and returners to learning.
 17. Removal of the FCF will result in many students being unable to afford the basic livings costs associated with attending University and an increase in the number of students who have to drop out.
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18. Announcing the scrapping of FCF only weeks before the new academic term is deplorable, as it leaves institutions with little time to prepare alternative forms of support, and a deficit in the amount of support available to students in this academic year.
 19. The removal of ring-fenced government funding will result in a disparate system where access to hardship funding is dependent on which institution a student attends. This postcode lottery risks exacerbating the inequalities between institutions and the support students are able to access.
 20. Removal of ring fenced funding will also result in a deregulation as to how institutions direct funding to those who need it most.
 21. The welsh government has in previous statements made a commitment to widening access to Welsh institutions, and cutting this hardship support is contradictory to that claim.
 22. Removal of the Fund risks entrenching the inequalities that already exist in access and participation in higher education in Wales
 23. In 2011, NUS Wales led a campaign in the lead up to the assembly elections calling for Assembly members (AM's) to pledge to not cut any more discretionary funding from HE and FE. 166 candidates in the assembly elections pledged not to cut the FCF, including our current first minister and Education minister. Breaking such pledges is breaking a promise to students in Wales.

NEC Resolves:

3. To publicly condemn the Welsh government for their decision to remove this essential funding, and in doing so, breaking their pledge to students.
 4. To call for the reintroduction of Government funded hardship funds for Welsh students
 5. To support Welsh students' unions in working with institutions to ensure alternative forms of hardship support are provided in absence of centralised funding.
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