

## **Defending liberal values across the world**

Submitted by: The Students' Union at UWE, University of Exeter Students' Guild

Conference believes:

1. Brunei's penal code came into effect on April 3, 2019.
2. Strict new Sharia punishments include homosexual sex being punishable with death by stoning. [1]
3. This is barbaric and a violation of human rights, and has rightly inspired a "global outcry". [2]
4. That the NUS has a proud history of standing up to LGBT injustice and inequality, and that this issue should concern both its Welfare and Society and Citizenship zones, as well as its Liberation campaigns.
5. That the United Kingdom welcomes many international students from Brunei, and this issue directly touches their lives.

Conference further believes:

1. Brunei is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations alongside the United Kingdom.
2. As of April 2018, 35 Commonwealth member states criminalise homosexuality. [3]

Conference resolves:

1. To release a statement condemning human rights violations in Brunei, and the persecution and execution of LGBT people across the world.
2. As a fellow Commonwealth country, to call for the UK Government to do the same.
3. To support all students who may be affected by Brunei's penal code.
4. To explore how the NUS can research and educate about the religious fundamentalism that leads to such barbaric homophobia.
5. To reaffirm the NUS's commitment to human rights and an end to homophobia and other discrimination wherever it may occur.

1. <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/03/25/brunei-stoning-death-under-anti-lgbt-laws/>
2. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/04/03/brunei-death-by-stoning-draws-international-criticism.html>
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-43822234>

## **Emergency Motion**

Submitted by: UEA Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. Student occupation at Goldsmiths University started on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and is continuing ever since.
2. Students are occupying a key building at Goldsmiths in protest of institutional racism, demanding an institution-wide strategy to tackle racism.
3. This occupation campaign against racism highlights unacceptable issues that are common practice across university campuses nationally.
4. The current climate of Brexit contributes towards racism; the EU referendum was the biggest spike in hate crime on record in England and Wales.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Not to support the students at Goldsmiths, nationally and beyond, in a campaign against racism, would be to severely impair the present work of NUS.
2. NUS needs to stand in solidarity with the students at Goldsmiths and nationally.
3. NUS will take this opportunity to eradicate racism and decolonise UK.
4. With the current NUS landscape where international students are losing a full-time officer, it is important for NUS to show support for Black Students.

Conference Resolves:

1. To release a statement of demands to every further and higher education institution, to urgently prioritise the active tackling of issues affecting Black Students.
2. To support Students' Unions during occupations against racism.
3. To encourage Student's Unions towards a national anti-racism campaign.
3. To encourage Students' Unions to be more inclusive of Black Students.
4. To launch a nationwide campaign in support of Black students, to create awareness about the ongoing issue and to reassure students that they are being represented and that their voice is being heard.
5. To lobby the government to start their own campaign against racism and xenophobia.

## **Antisemitism in the student movement**

Submitted by University of Manchester Students' Union

### Conference Believes

1. There is a history of antisemitism occurring within NUS. For the third year in a row, NUS volunteers and election candidates have been involved in scandals around the use of antisemitic language.
2. Antisemitism is on the rise in the UK. CST recorded 1,652 antisemitic incidents in 2018, the highest ever annual total. This was the third year in a row in which CST recorded a new annual high, and was a 16 per cent increase from the 2017 figure of 1,420 incidents.
3. Antisemitism is also a problem on campus, with CST reporting 2018 seeing a rise in the number of incidents occurring.
4. Jewish students can sometimes feel threatened and vulnerable on campus, with little support from NUS or SUs.

### Conference Further Believes

1. Antisemitism is unacceptable in all its forms
2. There is a problem with antisemitism in NUS and the student movement, and previous efforts by NUS to challenge this have clearly not been working.
3. More needs to be done by NUS, SUs and institutions of higher and further education to combat antisemitism on campus.
4. NUS FTOs, volunteers and staff need to understand antisemitism in order to tackle it.

### Conference resolves

1. For NUS to re-affirm its commitment to tackling antisemitism on campus.
2. To mandate NUS FTOs and NEC members undergo antisemitism training provided by the Union of Jewish Students at the start of each academic year.
3. To encourage SUs to host antisemitism training provided by the Union of Jewish Students
4. To affirm the Community Security Trust as a point of contact for monitoring and reporting antisemitism, and to encourage SUs to work with the CST to secure Jewish students' safety on campus.
5. NUS must speak out when incidents of antisemitism occur on campus and actively support Jewish students.