

1398 Motion to boycott the sale of 'The Sun' and 'The Daily Star' from Union Outlets (with amendments) Passed 24 October 13 amended by A Patel and C Jarvis 12 February 15

Proposer – Rachel Knott (Women's Officer)

Seconder – Louisa Kennard (Feminist Society)

Union Notes:

1. That UUEAS outlets stock newspapers like The Sun and The Daily Star. These newspapers publish daily photos of topless young women.
2. That UUEAS seeks to uphold the values of equality and diversity of its members.
3. That studies have shown links between viewing sexualised images, images objectifying women and normalising aggressive behaviours (*Government-Commissioned Sexualisation of Young People Review*, Dr Linda Papadopoulos, Feb 2010)^[1]. Other studies have shown that rape myths and beliefs which condone violence are more accepted by young adults who are exposed to sexualised and objectifying content (Kalof, 1999; Lanis and Covell, 1995; Milburn *et al.*, 2000; Ward, 2002)^[2].
4. That figures range from 30,000 women being sexually assaulted and 60,000 raped each year to 1 in 4 who have been sexually assaulted.
5. That UUEAS has a zero-tolerance against sexual harassment and sexual assault.
6. That the Never Okay campaign and the Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign (SAAC) are currently active and trying to stop cases of sexual assault/harassment.
7. That the Sun and The Daily Star often post controversial headlines perpetuating the oppression of mentally ill, disabled, and LGBT+ people, and ethnic minorities, such as in 7th October's headline '1,000 Killed by Mental Patients' (<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5183994/1200>, The Sun) or The Daily Star's 'Muslim thugs aged just 12 in knife attack on Brit school boy' of 18th November 2010.
8. Other Students' Unions including Leeds Metropolitan, Nottingham and Bradford have decided to withdraw the sale of the Sun and the Daily Star in their own outlets.

Union Believes:

1. That sexualised images belong in their rightful place such as pornography, and not in newspapers.
2. Stocking 'The Sun and The Daily Star' is contrary to UUEAS aims of upholding values of equality for all, and of zero tolerance of sexual

harassment and sexual assault in conjunction with the currently occurring campaigns.

3. That women are unequally represented in the Sun and in the Daily Star with their worth based on their appearance whereas men are reported based on their achievements.
4. Action taken in collaboration with other Students' Unions and campaign groups is an effective method of affecting change in institutions.
5. That The Sun and The Daily Star have accompanying context and content which could be considered as humiliating. Namely the patronising 'news in brief section' which openly mocks the idea that an attractive women may for example read Nietzsche or have whatever intellectual pursuits that the reporters choose to juxtapose against the image on that day. Additionally these images are the largest representation of a women in the 60 pages of The Sun.
6. That many UUEAS' members believe features like The Sun's Page Three promotes a racist conception of beauty. In the 42 years that page three has been running, there have only been four black women featured.

Union Resolves:

1. UEA should follow other universities and end the sale of The Sun and The Daily Star newspapers in UEA shops in support of gender equality.
2. To inform News International and the Editor of the Sun and of the Daily Star of this policy.

Endnotes:

[1] <http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/10738/1/sexualisation-young-people.pdf>

[2]

<http://www.wondercatdesign.com/mecasa/images/pdfs/harms%20of%20porn%20exposure-%202009.pdf>
