

1742 Ending discrimination in the blood service

Passed 15 October 15

Proposer: Dan Wrigglesworth (UEA Labour Students)

Seconder: Theo Antoniou-Phillips (LGBT+ Officer)

Council Notes:

1. More and more members of the LGBT community are becoming aware of the risks of HIV and receive regular testing.
2. A large amount of the LGBT community practice safe sexual acts reducing the risk of transferrable blood related diseases.
3. There is a decline in the amount of blood being donated and a rise in need for blood.
4. Blood being donated undergoes a rigorous testing process to insure it is not contaminated.
5. Men who engage in anal or oral sex with another man are unable to give blood unless they have abstained from these activities for 12 months, as are women who have had sex with a partner who has been sexually active with another man.
6. However those men who engage in sexual activity solely with women protected or unprotected are not similarly restricted.
7. A similar restriction exists for Tattoos and Piercings, however this is period is a duration of only four months.
8. After infection HIV is detectable within a period of 4 to 12 weeks.

Council Believes

1. LGBT members have a right to not be discriminated against.
2. LGBT men have a right to not be discriminated against for their sexuality and safe sexual activities.
3. Information on the restrictions on and how to donate is important.
4. Highlighting the importance of blood donation as well as how much is being lost by these restrictions
5. Further education on HIV and other blood borne diseases is important to help remove stigma and increase blood donation.
6. Since the reduction of restrictions the resolve for this campaign has appeared to decline, at least in visibility.

Council resolves:

1. To mandate the LGBT+ Officer to the following:
 - i. To ensure UEA SU makes it a priority to campaign against the blood donation restrictions on GBT+ men.
 - ii. To lobby the Norwich North and Norwich South MPs to take the issue further.
 - iii. To ensure UEA SU will make effort to emphasise the statistics surround blood donation such as how low the donation figures are/can be and how they can be improved through more people being able to donate.

- iv. To host a Blood donation at UEA SU to show how important blood donation is and using the event to educate the benefits of changing the policy to include men who engage in sexual activity with men.

