

Motion 1: Anti-Casualisation and Living Wage speaking tour

NEC Believes:

1. Industrial action by trade unions in 2013/14 won the living wage in the UK's universities
2. A movement is building throughout the US and UK for living wages & higher minimum wages, as exemplified by the successful "15 Now" campaign in Seattle, Washington, USA and the Fast Food Rights campaign in the UK.
3. A growing number of trade unions support the demand for £10/hour minimum wage, including GMB, bakers' union BFAWU and Unite.
4. Disparate sections & campaigns within NUS have policy supporting living wages or better minimum wages & against casualisation but no consensus position exists.
5. Disparate sections & campaigns within NUS have varying positions on zero hour contracts.
6. Opposing casualisation is in the interest of all NUS members.
7. That the casualization of academic staff, including many postgraduate research students who teach, is a growing concern across Higher and Further Education
8. That local campaigns by affected students and staff are developing across the sector.
9. That the SOAS Fractionals for Fair Play Campaign (FFFP)¹ has been campaigning for better pay and conditions for casualised academic staff at SOAS, including postgraduate research students who teach.
10. That FFFP organized an open organizing meeting to move towards a national conference on the issue, at SOAS on the 7th February, in an attempt to coordinate local campaigns, share resources and experiences, encourage the development of new campaigns and broaden out the campaign nationally.
11. Casualised academic staff from 14 universities attended the first organizing meeting and voted in favour of organizing a national conference at the beginning of the new year.
12. Since then, two new campaigns of casualised academic staff – at Queen Mary University and Sussex University respectively – have been launched.

NEC Further believes:

1. That the development of local campaigns is an important aspect of fighting the casualization of labour in education.
2. That national coordination between those campaigns is an important development.
3. That it is important to support postgraduate research students both as students and as workers.

NEC Resolves:

1. To authorise NUS Postgraduate Campaign to organise & promote the speaking tour as specified on behalf of NUS as a whole, on the basis of zero cost to NUS and a broad representation of campaigners & campaigning groups.
2. As a minimal position we support an end to age banding of the minimum wage & an increase in the minimum wage to reach the Living Wage Campaign's calculated hourly living wage (£7.68 outside London and £8.80 in London in 2014);
 - a. we prefer a minimum wage level of £10/hour, as determined by the level needed for a single-income family with two children to live above the poverty line while in full-time employment;
 - b. The position outlined in this motion does not override policy set by NUS's sections;
 - c. We remain committed to an overall goal of a society where all people can contribute & make best use of their potential without having to fear deprivation, shortage or oppression.
3. We support flexibility in working conditions as long as the benefit from this flexibility is for the worker, not for the employer.

¹ More info: <http://fractionalsforfairplay.webs.com/>

-
4. To support the national conference organized by the concerned staff and students and publicise it in the appropriate forums.

Motion 2: Standing up for sex workers, supporting decriminalisation of sex work

NEC Believes:

1. Sex work refers to escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcamming, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex (on and off the street)[1].
2. Selling sex is not illegal in the UK – but it is criminalised[2]. Almost everything that sex workers do to stay safe is illegal[3].
3. Financial reasons, and any criminal record gain due to the criminalisation of sex work, are usually cited as the main reason for staying in sex work[4].
4. There are a disproportionate number of disabled people, migrants, especially undocumented or semi-documented migrants, LGBT people and single parents (the vast majority of whom are women) involved in sex work[5].
5. The financial cost of being disabled, the cost of childcare, the cost of medical transition and hormones, racism in the workplace, the vulnerability of undocumented migrants to exploitation in other forms of work and the prejudice faced by LGBT and disabled people undoubtedly contribute to this overrepresentation.
6. The criminalisation of sex workers' clients, known as the Swedish Model, was recently passed in the Northern Irish Assembly, despite government-commissioned research showing that 98% of sex workers working in Northern Ireland did not want this introduced[6].
7. Organisations that support the decriminalisation of sex work include the World Health Organisation[7], UN Women[8], the Global Commission on HIV and the Law[9], Human Rights Watch, the NUS Disabled Students' Campaign[10] and the Royal College of Nurses[11].
8. The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women opposes introducing criminal penalties against the clients of sex workers. Their research found that criminalising clients does not reduce sex work or trafficking, but infringes on sex workers' rights & obstructs anti-trafficking efforts[12].
9. The decriminalisation of prostitution was introduced in New Zealand in 2003[13] by Labour MP Tim Barnett, who called the debate on decriminalisation the most significant debate on a moral issue since the decriminalisation of homosexuality[14].
10. The criminalisation of sex workers' clients has been proven to lead to further distrust of the police amongst sex workers, a willingness of sex workers to engage in more risky behaviour/safety procedures out of desperation, and does not reduce overall levels of prostitution [15].

NEC Further Believes:

1. Sex work is work. Sex work is the exchange of money for labour, like any other job. It is different because it is currently criminalised and stigmatised.
 2. People should be free to choose what they do with their time, their labour and their bodies. If they have fewer choices, our solution should be to expand their choices, not take options away through further criminalisation.
 3. The right of consenting adults to engage in sexual relations is of no business to anyone but the people involved.
 4. The moral panic around sex work and prostitution echoes the moral panic that was present when homosexuality was in the process of being decriminalised. It is no coincidence that many who argue for harsh anti-prostitution laws under the guise of feminism also voted against equal marriage and similar civil rights measures.
 5. With the rise in living costs, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some students do sex work alongside their studies.
 6. The lack of funding for postgraduate education makes it likely that some students use sex work as a means to fund their postgraduate degrees.
-

7. Stigma against sex work means that sex workers are less likely to seek out help and support if and when they need it.
8. Regardless of their reasons for entering into sex work, all sex workers deserve to have their rights protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. This includes sex workers who do not find their job 'empowering'. Whether or not you enjoy a job should have no bearing on the rights you deserve while you do it.
9. NUS have a proud history of standing for social justice and for the rights of workers across the world to do their jobs safely and to unionise, regardless of their student status.
10. The Stonewall Riots, which kick started the LGBT Pride movement NUS proudly champions today were started by Martha P. Johnson and other trans sex workers of colour.
11. Tim Barnett was correct in asserting that "prostitution is inevitable, and no country has succeeded in legislating it out of existence"[\[16\]](#). Sweden cannot show a reduction in the number of sex workers.
12. Legislation targeted at combatting poverty, austerity, universalising childcare and a living wage, sufficient social housing, and accessible education funding and living grants, is more likely to ensure those who do not wish to work in the sex industry do not feel forced to by economic circumstances.
13. Decriminalisation would ensure that sex workers feel able to report unsafe clients or violence at work without the worry of criminal repercussions, that several sex workers can work together for safety, and that those who wish to leave the sex industry are not left with criminal records as a result of their job.
14. The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex are often spearheaded by anti-choice, anti-LGBT right-wing fundamentalists, working with radical feminists[\[17\]](#).
15. Legislation of this kind is often brought forward in the name of anti-trafficking programmes – in reality it is primarily being used to target immigrant sex workers for raids and deportations.
16. The ILO estimates that over 75% of trafficking globally is into industries such as fisheries, agriculture and domestic work - not into sex work[\[18\]](#). An effective anti-trafficking strategy would strengthen the rights of all migrant workers in order to crack down on exploitation by managers. Treating the sex industry as exceptional leaves the majority of exploited migrant workers out in the cold - and the police aren't the allies of migrant workers, whether they're sex workers or agricultural workers.
17. A recent example of how simplistic 'anti-trafficking' policies harm migrant sex workers was the Soho raids – 250 police broke down doors of brothels operating in Soho, dragging handcuffed immigrant sex workers in their underwear out on the street. No evidence of trafficking was found and the flats have now been reopened, but women were deported against their will as 'trafficking victims'.
18. The Joint Committee on Human Rights report on Human Trafficking confirmed that "victims often find themselves treated as immigration offenders" and face detention and removals[\[19\]](#).
19. Criminalising the purchase of sex puts sex workers, especially those who work on the street, in danger. It is impossible to criminalise an aspect of someone's job without it having a negative impact on the person at work[\[20\]](#).

NEC Resolves:

1. To support and campaign for the full decriminalisation of sex work.
2. To campaign against any attempt to introduce the Nordic Model into the UK.
3. To support and be led by sex worker led organisations, such as the English Collective of Prostitutes, Sex Worker Open University and SCOT-PEP, who work to improve the lives of sex workers across the UK.

[\[1\]](#) From here on, references are made to 'sex work' in this motion refer to full service sex work – escorting, prostitution, etc. Other strands of sex work are stigmatised, but not criminalised in the way that full service sex work is criminalised.

[\[2\]](#) Similar laws operate in Scotland, Wales & England. Prostitution (the exchange of sexual services for money) is not illegal, but associated activities (soliciting in a public place, kerb

crawling, operating a brothel) are. The main laws around sex work in the UK are: the Vagrancy Act of 1824; the Sexual Offences Act of 1956 and the Street Offences Act of 1959 (England and Wales); the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892 and the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act of 1976, Sexual Offences Act 2003, Policing and Crime Act 2009, Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2002, Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

[3] See <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jan/06/prostitutes-criminalised> & <http://sabotaetimes.com/people/sheila-farmer-and-the-brothel-that-never-was/>. Sheila Farmer is a disabled sex worker who entered the industry after her disability left her unable to work – working with friends for safety after being raped, she was charged with brothel keeping but the charges were eventually dropped after she began to campaign publicly about what she had been put through by attackers, the police and the authorities. Her experiences are not uncommon.

[4] <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/prostitution-report-nov-update.pdf>, p.8; <http://www.justice.govt.nz/policy/commercial-property-and-regulatory/prostitution/prostitution-law-review-committee/publications/plrc-report/documents/report.pdf>, p.15

[5] Safety First Coalition

[6] <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/prostitution-report-nov-update.pdf>, p.11

[7] http://www.who.int/hiv/mediacentre/feature_story/sti_guidelines/en/

[8] <http://sexualrightsinitiative.com/2013/sri-partners/sri-welcomes-un-womens-strong-position-on-sex-work-sexual-exploitation-and-trafficking-in-persons/>

[9] <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2012/july/20120711lawcommission>

[10] Policy passed 11/11/14

[11] <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2005/apr/27/health.crime>

[12] http://www.gaatw.org/publications/MovingBeyond_SupplyandDemand_GAATW2011.pdf

[13] Prostitution Reform Act 2003

[14] http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/debates/debates/47HansD_20030625_00001319/prostitution-reform-bill-%E2%80%94-procedure-third-reading

[15] <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/prostitution-report-nov-update.pdf>; http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/debates/debates/47HansD_20030625_00001319/prostitution-reform-bill-%E2%80%94-procedure-third-reading; <http://prostitutescollective.net/2014/11/05/victory-amendment-criminalise-sex-workers-clients-defeated/>; <http://prostitutescollective.net/2009/02/04/letter-from-tim-barnett-former-new-zealand-mp-on-the-policing-and-crime-bill-2/>; <http://prostitutescollective.net/2014/10/30/urgent-mps-trying-criminalise-clients/>; The National Board of Health & Welfare, 2008

[16] <http://prostitutescollective.net/2009/02/04/letter-from-tim-barnett-former-new-zealand-mp-on-the-policing-and-crime-bill-2/>

[17] E.g. the Democratic Unionist Party, CARE, Ruhama, End Demand.

[18] http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_214472.pdf

[19] <http://prostitutescollective.net/2014/10/30/urgent-mps-trying-criminalise-clients/>; Twenty-Sixth report of session, 2005-6, Vol. 1

[20] Safety First Coalition

Motion 3: International students and the NHS

NEC Believes:

1. According to the 2014 Immigration Act, from May 2015, students and workers from outside the EU will have to pay a 'NHS surcharge' of up to £200 per year before they are given a visa. The charges apply to primary care (GPs) and A&E departments, as well as secondary care.
2. To enforce these surcharges, NHS staff will have to check the immigration status of everyone who uses the NHS, whenever they register for a GP practice or go into A&E for emergency treatment.
3. The Department of Health is currently writing the secondary legislation which will lay out how the law is implemented. It will soon begin piloting the new registration database and will start implementing the visa surcharge and other charges within the next six months.

NEC Further Believes:

1. As immigration checks are forced upon overburdened A&E, GP and hospital staff, mistakes are inevitable and patients will suffer. The Act states that Trusts will receive "financial incentives" to recoup costs. This means pressuring staff to racially profile patients into those deemed eligible for free care, and those not. This discriminates patients, and goes against every NHS Trust policy on Equality and Diversity towards patients and staff.
2. The NHS surcharge forces international students and migrants to contribute more than the rest of society in order to access NHS services. Migrants who come to the UK to work or study already pay into the system in many ways – through taxes, National Insurance, VAT and tuition fees. The Immigration Act fails to recognise migrants' work within NHS itself. While international students contribute £14 billion to the UK economy every year, they are made the scapegoat of austerity.
3. The NHS has never been a contribution or insurance-based system, and this surcharge is a move away from the universal principles on which it was founded. Although these changes seem small, it brings us closer to the American model where people are denied care because of their inability to pay.
4. When immigration enforcement enters the NHS many people will become scared and deterred from seeking care because their movements will be reported to the Home Office. Health workers shouldn't be responsible for policing patients' immigration status.
5. The patients' health conditions will worsen and conditions that could have been more simply treated at an early stage will bring them to A&E at a much greater cost to the entire system.
6. All people resident in the UK should be treated as humans, not wrongly categorized as vectors of infection for British citizens. All chronic conditions should be treated equally, regardless of a patient's national origin.

NEC Resolves:

1. To work with International Students' Campaign to campaign against the systemic change in NHS and fight the anti-immigrant rhetoric in every front.
2. To send a press release in supporting the rights of international students and migrants to access health care service.
3. To include the provision for international students' health care in NUS' general campaigns and briefings around NHS.

Motion 5: Kurdish Solidarity

NEC Believes:

1. The Kurdish people have been fighting for freedom and democracy throughout the course of history and are amongst the largest stateless groups in the world.
2. They have experienced mass genocides committed by surrounding states, followed by mass displacement and millions of refugees.
3. There is a new democratic structure in the 3 cantons of Rojava which has been set up by the people of the region and enacts women's rights as well as other forms of social justice for all those oppressed.
4. Kurdish women have played a key role by co-leading the resistance in the region, with non patriarchal and anti-sexist methods which has also been the case throughout history.
5. The Kurdish people in Kobane are restricted in healthcare, food and clothing.
6. The Kurdish struggle aims to protect co-existence between the different ethnic and religious groups.
7. That our opposition to ISIS should not make us forget the crimes of some fighting it – eg the Syrian regime which, backed by Russia and Iran, has murdered tens of thousands of civilians and is using the current crisis to step up its violence and repression.
8. That we should not trust or support the role of the US and UK governments and their allies, who helped created the conditions for the rise of IS; continue to back all kinds of reactionary regimes and forces in the region; and by their very nature act for reasons that have little to do with democracy or liberation.
9. The humanitarian crisis and massacre of Kurds that has been taking place in both the north of Syria and north of Iraq.
10. ISIS is a reactionary terrorist organisation that carries out atrocities against Kurds, Iraqis, Syrians, Assyrians, Turkmen, Alawite, Ismaili, Christian, Druze and others across the region.
11. ISIS is currently maintaining a siege on the Kurds of Kobane in northern Syria.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That all peoples have the right to self-determination.
2. Rojava is entitled to its independent political establishment which is inclusive of all the communities within the region.
3. That the Kurdish struggle should be recognised and supported by the international community.
4. That the Kurdish people should lead in defining their freedom and making demands of solidarity.
5. That kidnapping sexual abuse and trafficking of Kurdish women and children are crimes against humanity.
6. That ISIS should be condemned for its atrocities, against the Kurdish people and all others who have been affected.
7. That aid should not be prevented from reaching the Kurdish people.
8. Provisions should be put in place to cater for the people in the Kurdish region, namely Rojava, Shingal, Mosul and Sinjar.
9. That following the US/UK invasion of Iraq a decade ago, chaos, sectarianism, civil war and terrorism have been unleashed across the region.
10. That Turkey has been preventing the Kurds fighting ISIS in Kobani from receiving humanitarian aid and assistance
11. Western military involvement in the region has already created the current chaos and further intervention will only exacerbate the situation.
12. Within Britain the government is fanning a reactionary Islamophobic agenda which falsely equates Muslim communities with support for terrorism, and that this is latched onto by the far right and encourages attacks on Muslims.

NEC Resolves:

1. That Kurdish emancipation will neither be obtained through groups like ISIS nor imperialist endeavours.
 2. To meet with and support the UK Kurdish groups and community's solidarity efforts and the international Kurdish diaspora's.
 3. To call on the international community to recognise the Kurdish resistance.
 4. To call for the UK government to formally recognise the three cantons of Rojava.
 5. To call for the lifting of the ban on the PKK, which aids repression of the Kurdish nationalist movement.
-

- 
6. To support the international movement to find and bring back all the Kurdish people who have been captured by ISIS.
 7. To raise awareness about the situation and support Kurdish societies within Students' Unions to show solidarity.
 8. To pressure the UK government to meet the needs of the Kurdish community in the UK and within the region.
 9. For relevant officers to campaign to support the Kurdish struggle.
 10. To condemn the atrocities committed by ISIS and any other complicit forces.
 11. To call on the UK government to meet the needs of refugees from the region.
 12. To support women's organizations which help young girls and women who have been abducted and trafficked.
 13. To call for refugees to be allowed freely into the UK, and given equal access to education and services.
 14. To build solidarity with the Middle East's hard-pressed student, workers' and women's liberation movements.
 15. To condemn and fight attempts to use the situation in Iraq and Syria to stir up anti-Muslim racism / Islamophobia. To oppose the anti-civil liberties and anti-Muslim measures the government is promoting (eg the right to confiscate passports/abrogate rights of citizenship).
 16. To express our solidarity with the Kurdish people and their struggle in the region.
 17. To condemn ISIS, and the atrocities it commits.
 18. To oppose US and UK military intervention in Iraq and Syria.
 19. To support the demands of the Kurds in Kobane for a humanitarian corridor through Turkey to enable provisions to reach the civilians there.
 20. To challenge Islamophobia and all forms of racism being whipped up.
- 