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## Annual Members' Meeting (19/02/2015)

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**Motion Name: Tampons should be free. Period.**

**Background:**

1. Tampons and towels are currently taxed by the Government at a rate of 5% as a 'luxury, non-essential item' and are hence subject to Value Added Tax (VAT).
2. Many products are free from VAT as they are viewed as fundamental: food, prescriptions and children's clothes; but not sanitary products. Sanitary items are also crucial to health and hygiene and using homemade alternatives can put you at risk of infection. It is unethical to charge for the upkeep of a natural bodily function, let alone ask people to give a contribution to the Government each time.
3. The cost of sanitary products is an unfair burden and it disproportionately affects women.

**Purpose:**

1. The Government should not be taxing natural bodily functions.
2. Sanitary products should be free.

**Action:**

1. UBU will support the campaign for #FreePeriods by calling on the Government to eradicate the cost of sanitary products, let alone the VAT.
2. As part of this campaign UBU will spend £200 on sanitary products to be given to students on a first-come-first-served basis to raise awareness of this unfair tax. Students will also receive a postcard to send to their MP lobbying them to work on this issue in Parliament.
3. UBU will work with the NUS Women's Campaign to lobby the relevant Ministers over this issue.

*Proposed by:*

Your first and last name: Sorana Vieru, Postgraduate Officer

Seconder first and last name: Alyx Murray-Jackman, Sport and Student Development Officer