



**BRISTOL SU**  
the best student life

The Richmond Building  
105 Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8  
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www.bristolsu.org.uk

## Student Council 09/06/15

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### Motion Name: Improving Liberation Representation at Bristol SU

#### **Background:**

1. Currently we elect delegates to the NUS Liberation conferences (NUS Women's Conference, Black Students Conference, LGBT Conference and Disabled Students Conference) at the Liberation Forums chaired by the Bristol SU Women's, LGBT, BME and Disabled Students Officers. These forums are safe spaces for self-defining women, LGBT+ students, disabled students and BME students to discuss issues relevant to them.
2. Electing delegates this way has not been that successful in the past few years. This year we elected delegates for NUS Women's Conference and NUS LGBT Conference through the relevant forums, but the delegates for the other two conferences had to be chosen more informally as they could not be elected at the forums.
3. Other Students' Unions, for example Warwick, send their part time Liberation Officers to the conferences as delegates. Part time liberation officers have a greater mandate from their elections and are also more accountable to their groups through their Liberation Forums.
4. Currently all students can vote for our part time Liberation Officers (Women's Officer, LGBT+ Officer, BME Officer and Disabled Students Officer). However part time Liberation Officers are elected specifically to represent their respective group – they do not represent students who do not belong to their group.
5. Part time Liberation Officers are also only accountable to students who self-define into their group. This accountability takes place at Liberation Forums, which are safe spaces for liberation groups.
6. Other Students' Unions, for example UCL, ask students which liberation groups they self-define into (if any) through an honesty tick box system. Students are then able to vote for any corresponding Liberation Officers.

#### **Purpose:**

1. A more democratic and accountable process for part time Liberation Officer and NUS Liberation Conference delegate elections.

#### **Action:**

1. Bristol SU will send the part time Liberation Officers to their relevant NUS conference as delegates in the first instance. If an officer cannot or does not wish to attend their conference or there is an extra delegate place, an election will be conducted by cross campus ballot, with an honesty tick box asking students to confirm that they self-define into the relevant liberation group before they vote.

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2. Bristol SU will introduce an honesty tick box on the election page for part time officers. This will ask students which (if any) of the liberation groups they self-define into. Students will then be able to vote for any corresponding Liberation Officers. This will ensure that part time Liberation Officers are elected by the students that they represent and are accountable to.

*Proposed by:*

Your first and last name: Alice Phillips, Equality, Liberation and Access Officer

Second first and last name: Megan Armstrong, Women's Officer

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