



**BRISTOL SU**  
the best student life

The Richmond Building  
105 Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8  
1LN  
Tel (0117) 331 8600  

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www.bristolsu.org.uk

## **Student Council**

**06/06/2016**

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### **Motion Name: An Autonomous Trans Liberation Campaign at Bristol SU**

#### **Background:**

1. Currently we are affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS) and therefore have the right to participate in their democratic processes. This includes, but is not limited to, the National Conference and the liberation conferences e.g. Women's, Black Students, Disabled Students, LGBT+...
2. At the NUS National Conference in April 2016 delegates voted to create an autonomous Trans liberation campaign to join the others mentioned above to become the fifth liberation campaign. This will mean having a paid full-time officer and a conference where policy will be passed, and that officer will be mandated by it accordingly.
3. Currently the system Bristol SU uses to elect delegates to the current liberation conferences is to send the elected part-time officer and then if there is budget for us to send another person we elect a student via an online election where voters have to self-define within the liberation group to stand and vote.
4. This system works well as the part-time officer and other delegate can then be held to account on the way they voted at the next forum that the part-time officer holds.
5. However this system will not work when the fifth Trans liberation campaign is created, as Bristol SU Trans students will have no mechanism for holding any delegate to account that attends the conference on behalf of Bristol.
6. Bristol SU has an informal network of Trans students that the Equality, Liberation and Access officer set up this academic year, which could be easily made representative and democratic just like the other part-time liberation officers and their networks.

#### **Purpose:**

1. To ensure that Bristol SU has a system where all students can effectively hold the students that represent them to account and mandate them to vote certain ways.
2. To ensure that our systems work alongside the NUS.
3. To further enhance the representation of Trans students at Bristol University - one of the groups that has traditionally had little to no representation.
4. To give Trans students the autonomously to vote and decide on issues that affect them without it having to go through the LGBT+ part-time officer.

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**Action:**

1. To update the bylaws to include a fifth liberation officer called 'Trans Students' Officer' and this role will be treated in the same way to all other part-time liberation officers.
2. To note that this officer will lead an autonomous campaign and hold forums at the same frequency as every other part-time liberation officer. These forums will be supported by Bristol SU and will be for self-identifying trans students to attend.
3. The Trans Students' Officer will be invited to all the events that the other part-time liberation officers are invited to.

**Proposed by:**

Proposer: Jamie Cross - Equality, Liberation and Access Officer  
Seconder: George Soothill

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