



## Student Council

06/06/2016

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### Motion Name: Guarantee Liberation Campaigns Have a Stall at Fresher's Fair

#### Background:

1. Coming to Bristol as a BME student, and additionally as a politically engaged BME student, I initially felt extremely isolated. I had hoped Fresher's Fair might help with this, seeing societies such as SOAS' South Asian Diaspora Society and Warwick's Anti-Racism Society and hoping there may be such a space for me at my university. However, I found none – although the cultural societies such as Asian Cultural Society and Bollywood Dance Society helped with the homesickness, neither could offer a nurturing environment for my political passions. If I hadn't have happened to eavesdrop on a conversation involving Noha (our current BME Officer), I truly do not know when I would have come across the BME Association, and without it my university experience would have been severely diminished. The BME Association have carried out some ground-breaking work this year, but all our efforts have been sadly undermined by a patent lack of visibility and accessibility to all that we do – so many of our active members who joined us later in the year said they'd wished they'd found us sooner, that they were looking for a group like ours, but were never aware of our presence. The members of our Association should not have had to dedicate as much time to marketing as we did – but such was needed to even scratch the surface of the publicity we hoped to achieve. We believe that this all could be effectively dealt with if liberation groups were given a stall at Fresher's Fair.

#### Purpose:

1. Students of oppressed and marginalised identities deserve to know, as soon as they enter university, that their Union recognises their struggle, is a safe space for them and is dedicating resources to individual campaigns in order to fight for them. If this motion is passed, for the next 3 years at least, students will have the opportunity to engage with liberation campaigns without having to do much searching in the first place.

#### Action:

1. By giving each liberation campaign (BME, Womens', LGBTQ+, Disabilities) their own stall at Fresher's Fair to do with as they please.
2. If possible, to try and give these stalls as prominent and visible a space as possible within the Fair, for reasons that are stated above.

#### Proposed by:

Your first and last name: Radhika Jani

Seconder first and last name: Noha Abou El Magd

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