The Students’ Union believes that students have the right to live in safe and affordable housing in Sheffield. Since 2001, Britain has spent over £20 billion waging wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Over 1,000,000 people have been killed. The cost of renewing the Trident nuclear weapons system is £100 billion. It would have cost just £2 billion annually to abolish university tuition fees. Instead they were trebled. Furthermore, Sheffield University maintains a large share portfolio in companies who arm the world’s most repressive regimes and lobby the government to prioritise funding war over education.

This Union is opposed to the government funding bombs instead of books, and opposes Sheffield University’s investments in the arms companies that profit from this arrangement. Reducing Britain’s military spending to the same level as Germany would save £15 billion annually for funding education and other public services.

This Union resolves to:
1. Make the case for ‘funding education, not war’ in our education funding campaigns.
2. Declare opposition to the University’s dealings with all arms companies.
3. Lobby the University to divest of its shares in arms companies.
4. Work with Stop the War Coalition and Student CND to raise awareness of money wasted on war and nuclear weapons.
5. End all dealings with arms companies, including at careers fairs and in advertising.

Policy History:
The original ‘University Relations with Arms Companies’ policy was passed by Referendum in March 2007 (2,116 votes for, 675 against, 739 abstentions) and renewed without amendment by Students’ Union Council in November 2009. During 2010-2011 Students’ Union Council set up a Select Committee to consider this policy. The new policy was submitted by a petition of over 500 students in 2012 and passed by referendum in October 2012. The Policy was reviewed and amendments were made by Students’ Union Council in December 2015.

This policy is next due for review in November 2018.