Gender Quotas for NUS Delegate Elections

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: Womens Officer
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The Students’ Union Notes:
1. The under representation of women is a serious issue at the University of Sheffield Students’ Union.
2. Statistically fewer women nominate themselves to be an NUS delegate compared to other cross campus elections (Council and Officer Elections).

The Students’ Union Believes:
1. The number of women we send to National Conference each year is not representative of the number of women students at the University.
2. If fewer women go to National Conference then statistically fewer women will run for National Executive Committee, meaning NUS remains unrepresentative of the 7 million students it is meant to represent.
3. These inequalities will not resolve themselves in the near future without firm measures being put in place to ensure women are being elected as NUS delegates.
4. Gender quotas are an effective way to redress the imbalance of women’s representation on conference floor.

The Students’ Union Resolves:
1. For the Students’ Union to actively work on the under representation of women and underrepresented groups in all elections.
2. For Sheffield Students’ Union to adopt a gender quota for NUS National Conference delegates.
3. This quota will be to reserve 50% of elected delegate spaces for women and the remainder as open spaces.

POLICY HISTORY:
Passed by Students’ Union Council in May 2012 and renewed without amendment in October 2014.

This policy was renewed without amendment for 3 years in November 2017.