



nus disabled students
CONFERENCE

2nd - 3rd May 2018 | Manchester

Resolutions

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format contact NUS on 0845 5210 262
or email events@nus.org.uk





Purpose of this document

The Disabled Students Campaign is led by policy passed at Disabled Students Conference. This document contains all the motions to Disabled Students Conference 2018. Constituent Members can submit amendments to executiveoffice@nus.org.uk before the deadline of Tuesday 20 March at 12pm.

Disabled Student's Motions

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Zone 100: Society and Citizenship

Motion 101: Vagrancy Act

Constituent Member: Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union

Conference Believes

1. Homeless people who are rough sleeping continue to be criminalised through the use of the Vagrancy Act 1824 which makes it an offence to sleep rough or beg;
2. This barbaric, archaic law that criminalises the very existence of those homeless forced to take to the streets or beg for survival was used 1,810 times in 2016-17;
3. It is no longer in force in Scotland and Northern Ireland;
4. It serves no purpose but the punishment, persecution and stigmatisation of some of the most vulnerable in our society;
5. 307,000 people are classed as homeless – similar to the size of a city such as Newcastle. In Manchester, host to the 2018 Disabled Student conference, 189 people are sleeping on the streets according to Manchester Evening News;
6. Between 2010 and 2016, increases of 53% were seen in the number of homeless households vulnerable through mental illness and for those vulnerable due to physical disability, 49%;
7. Students who may leave part way through their course or who have finished their course may be faced with homelessness and will sleep rough.

Conference Resolves

1. To urge the Government to repeal this harmful and out-of-date legislation across the whole of the UK.
2. To support Layla Moran MP's Vagrancy (Repeal) Bill;
3. To mandate the Disabled Students Officer to raise awareness of the implications of the Vagrancy Act.

Motion 102: Postgraduates

Constituent Member: Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union

Conference Believes

1. The Disabled Student Allowance is an excellent idea in principle to provide financial support for disabled students to attend university;
2. The rates announced for undergraduates for the 2018/19 academic year is £21,987 per year for non-medical support, £5,529 in equipment for the course duration and £1,847 general allowance;
3. The rates announced for postgraduates for the 2018/19 academic year is £10,993 per year to cover all and any requirements;
4. Immense pressure is placed on students by Universities to apply for charitable funding to cover the shortfall in expenditure to meet access requirements;
5. Time taken up with applying for charitable funding distracts from focusing on studies;
6. Uncertainty about funding creates stress – will there be enough support for the course duration?
7. Limited funding artificially reduces the number of PhD opportunities that are available for people to apply for.

Conference Resolves

1. To undertake research into the levels of shortfalls in funding and impact on students;
 2. To campaign for fair funding for Postgraduate support needs;
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3. To mandate the Disabled Students Officer to raise this issue with Department for Education and Skills;
 4. To identify ways of sourcing funding and sharing experiences to reduce pressure on students.

Zone 200: Strong and Active Unions

Motion 201: Race and Racism in Disabled Spaces

Constituent Member: NUS Disabled Students' Committee

Conference Believes:

1. The Disabled Students' Campaign is very white - for example, the last DSO who was a person of colour was Rupy Kaur in 2011¹.
2. The National Union of Students had to recently undertake an Institutional Racism Review (IRR), prompted and fought for by officers and volunteers of colour, after multiple allegations of the NUS having been institutionally racist².
3. The results of the IRR have caused NUS to create a number of immediate steps and policies. They can be read here: <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/strategy/institutional-racism-review>
4. The Disabled People's Movement and its history has been whitewashed, erasing the efforts and achievements of disabled activists of colour, particularly women.³⁴

Conference Further Believes:

1. Without liberation for all disabled people, there will be liberation for no disabled people.
2. Disabled people of colour face often specific and different barriers, as they are multiply oppressed by both racism and disablism.
3. The Disabled Students' Campaign exists at the intersection of the student movement and the disabled people's movement, so any attempts to address issues of race and racism in our spaces must address the issues of both.
4. The work of making our Campaign more inclusive and anti-racist should not be left to disabled people of colour alone.

Conference Resolves:

1. For the Disabled Students' Committee to conduct a survey into the experiences and barriers of disabled people of colour in getting involved in disabled spaces.
2. This research should look at both disabled students of colour, and the wider disabled people's movement.
3. For the survey to take into account both SU disabled spaces, and the NUS Disabled Students' Campaign, its events, conferences and actions.
4. The survey questions should be set with input from the Black Rep on DSC, other disabled people of colour in the DSC, the Black Students' Campaign and disabled activists of colour.
5. The survey should also take into account the experiences and barriers that Muslim and Jewish disabled students face.

¹ <http://disabilityhorizons.com/2011/04/a-chat-with-nus-disabled-students-officer-rupy-kaur/>

² <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/strategy/institutional-racism-review>

³ <http://www.dominickevans.com/2017/06/defiant-lives-is-essential-viewing-though-problematic/>

⁴ https://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-blahovec/confronting-the-whitewash_b_10574994.html



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6. For the Disabled Students' Committee to run focus groups into the specific needs and barriers faced by disabled people of colour and to integrate these findings into our demands and campaigns.
 7. For the Disabled Students' Campaign, Committee and Officer to encourage disabled people of colour to attend Disabled Students' Conference and to run for positions.

Motion 202: Disabled People and Brexit

Constituent Member: NUS Disabled Students' Committee

Conference Believes:

1. The European Union (EU) Accessibility Act is now stuck in limbo, as the United Kingdom (UK) is due to leave the EU before it comes into force, which will affect the rights and opportunities of disabled people to have access to accessible products and technology in their home and public lives⁵.
2. Other EU directives which include accessibility and the rights of disabled people are at risk of not being integrated in UK law due to the timing of leaving the EU.
3. The European Social Fund is the scheme that aims to improve disabled people's access to employment in the UK - the UK will lose access to this fund once Brexit is complete⁶.
4. The threat to freedom of movement is extremely worrying, in terms of migrants rights and in terms of losing even more of the social care workforce⁷.
5. Social care is not considered by the UK Home Office to be "skilled labour".
6. The Great Repeal Bill is going to copy all existing EU law into UK law, with the exception of the Charter of Fundamental Rights; containing many laws relating to the rights of and protections for disabled people⁸.
7. The UK could lose access to the European Court of Human Rights - whose decisions outweigh any UK court⁹ and therefore won't be available for UK citizens whose human rights have been violated.
8. The UK government was recently found to have committed "grave and systemic violations of the rights of persons with disabilities" during a 2016 investigation by the UNCRPD¹⁰.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The UK Conservative Government and the former Liberal Democrat Conservative Coalition were found to have committed grave human rights violations against disabled people, and should be held accountable by EU bodies, therefore disabled people should have access to the European Court of Human Rights in order to challenge the UK government on rights-violating policy and law.

⁵ <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/staggers/2017/12/what-happens-support-disabled-people-after-brexit>

⁶ <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/staggers/2017/12/what-happens-support-disabled-people-after-brexit>

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jul/05/brexit-fears-exodus-eu-health-social-care-workforce>

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jul/13/great-repeal-bill-human-rights-clause-sets-up-brexit-clash-with-labour>

⁹ <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/brexit-and-human-rights>

¹⁰ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37899305>



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2. Disabled people in the UK should have the right to access all areas of public and private life, and there should be legislation so that the provisions are in place for them to be able to do so.
 3. Disabled people's rights should be enshrined in law.
 4. Freedom of movement is a human right.

Conference Resolves:

1. To campaign to protect the freedom of movement of all migrants, EU and non-EU.
2. To lobby and campaign for the UK government to include the Charter of Fundamental Rights in UK law.
3. To lobby and campaign for the UK government to match the funding of the European Social Fund post-Brexit so that disabled people's access to work is not further detrimentally affected.
4. For the UK to continue to have laws at least in line with, if not surpassing, the EU directives on accessibility.
5. To campaign for the UK government to involve disabled people's organisations in any laws involving disabled people's rights or protections.

Motion 203: To Prioritise Working with User-Led Organisations

Constituent Member: NUS Disabled Students' Committee

Conference Believes:

1. Disabled People User Led Organisations (DPULOs), sometimes referred to Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) are organisations which are controlled and run by a majority of disabled people (51%)¹¹ at a board and membership level.
2. Deaf Peoples' Organisations run on a similar model.
3. Psychiatric Survivor/ Service User organisations also run on a similar model.
4. These organisations have been at the forefront of the struggle for disabled peoples' liberation.
5. Many disability charities have been criticised by disabled peoples' organisations and disability activists for their silence or complicity with the Tory Government's Austerity Agenda.¹²¹³¹⁴

Conference Further Believes:

1. Our liberation as disabled people has to come from a collective movement of disabled people.
2. 2017/18 was the first year in many years that the Disabled Students' Campaign has engaged with Disabled Peoples' Organisations in an organised way.
3. Although non-disabled allies have their place, we should not prioritise working with non-user led organisations if it is possible to work with user led organisations instead.
4. The Disabled People's Movement has a shortage of young disabled people involved in its' organisations and the Disabled Students' Campaign should be promoting their work and encouraging students to get involved.
5. A long running slogan of the Disabled Peoples' Movement has been "rights not charity", referring to the complicity of disability charities in the oppression of disabled people, and also the power imbalance present between the disabled person and the charity.¹⁵

¹¹ <http://www.pwd.org.au/student-section/disabled-people-s-organisations-dpos.html>

¹² <http://bworkfare.mayfirst.org/?p=1573>

¹³ <http://blacktrianglecampaign.org/2016/10/14/mind-faces-boycott-call-after-policy-and-campaigns-manager-joins-dwp/>

¹⁴ <https://www.disabledgo.com/blog/2016/11/mind-boss-lies-to-protesters-over-dwp-contracts/#.WmXx92xLFPZ>

¹⁵ <http://www.drakemusic.org/blog/nim/understanding-disability-part-4-the-charity-model/>



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6. The government has been criticised for working with charities, and excluding DPOs.¹⁶
 7. Self-organised disabled peoples' organisations and activist groups are responsible for many of the rights we have today.¹⁷

Conference Resolves:

1. Where possible, the NUS Disabled Students' Campaign should prioritise working with user led organisations.
2. The Disabled Students' Campaign should encourage disabled students to get involved in DPOs and disabled peoples' campaigns.
3. If the Disabled Students' Officer is asked by SUs for recommendations of who to fundraise for, they should primarily recommend user led organisations.

Zone 300: Welfare

Motion 301: Promote disability and mental health in the Black students' committee

Constituent Member: Goldsmiths Students' Union

Conference Believes

1. People of colour can sometimes have a poor understanding of mental health and disabilities. In addition, the black and minority ethnic (BAME) community can often hold outdated views on disability and mental health and often do not talk about or approach the subjects.
2. As people of colour, we are already marginalised by mental health services and face discrimination, not only because of the colour of our skin, but for mental health issues, disabilities and impairments we may also have.
3. There have been noted accessibility issues with Black Students' Campaign events.

Conference Further Believes

1. Intersectionality is something that the NUS should continue to work on and promote to our students. We can do this by starting at the grassroots.
2. Disability and mental health are both important issues and with the decline in health services, welfare cuts and social care, we need to push out the message for disabled students who face multiple oppressions.

Conference Resolves

1. The Disabled Students Committee and The Black Student's Committee should work closely to promote disability and mental health, as well as work closely with grassroots organizations that look at intersectionality and promote BAME disability and mental health.
2. The Disabled Students' Campaign, and the Black Rep on the DSC should work with the Black Students' Committee in making more accessible events for black disabled students and committee members.
3. In addition, the Black Students' Committee should work on raising awareness for BAME disabled students in writing articles, outreach via social media and other means.

¹⁶ <https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/dpos-to-write-to-minister-over-exclusion-from-social-care-meeting/>

¹⁷ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/disability-34732084>





Motion 302: End discrimination against students applying for disability benefits

Constituent Member: Goldsmiths Students' Union

Conference Believes

1. Many disabled students are being openly discriminated by assessors during their medical assessments due to the fact that they are in higher or further education.
2. This discriminates against students with invisible disabilities and impairments including mental health conditions because the assessors claim that the claimants are not 'significantly impaired or disabled' due to the fact that they can study at a university or college level.
3. The points system that the medical assessors use especially discriminate against disabled students with invisible disabilities such as mental health issues, specific learning difficulties (SPLDs) and autistic spectrum conditions because assessors do not award points if they attend university, irrespective of having reasonable adjustments and non-medical helpers at their educational establishments through DSA.

Conference Further Believes

1. For many disabled students who already find trouble with studying as well as finding accessible part time work during their studies, this is an issue.
2. Disabled students should not have to prove how much their impairment impacts on their life.
3. In the event of being denied the disability benefit(s), the appeals process is very tiring and can affect the claimant's mental and physical health.
4. The fact that assessors will not award points to people with SPLDs and autism spectrum conditions if they are studying could also be taken to imply that disabled people are not capable of learning at a higher or further educational level. This alone is very demeaning.

Conference Resolves

1. The Disabled Students Committee should work with organisations that are against welfare cuts for disabled people.
2. The Disabled Students' Committee should produce a list of resources that give advice to disabled students who are looking to apply for disability benefits and who have been discriminated against on the basis that they are in education.
3. To campaign for HE and FE institutions to provide advice and support for students applying for disability benefits, and for those within the appeals process.
4. To campaign for HE and FE institutions to provide adequate financial support for disabled students in financial need.
5. To campaign to end the current discriminatory system of disability benefit assessments.

Motion 303: Ongoing cultural shift to inclusive practice

Constituent Member: Derwen College

Conference Believes:

1. NUS is the self-professed national voice of Students, with around 600 affiliated Students' Unions
 2. NUS members include higher education institutions, further education institutions, and apprenticeship providers. Within our members are specialist institutions including Derwen College, a specialist residential college for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities
 3. NUS liberation campaigns are at the heart of our work, fighting for liberation from oppression.
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4. NUS this year has continued to develop the training programme - FE Leaders - developed specifically for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and has continued to further its work to address inclusive practice

Conference Further Believes:

1. Learners with learning difficulties and disabilities are entitled to a voice within our structures, entitled to have their views listened to and their voices heard
2. NUS prides itself on access awareness, but, despite some raised awareness and training continues to fall short for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities. Our campaigns and national conference remain largely inaccessible for this group
3. NUS has a continuing duty to ensure that all members are able to understand processes, to make an informed decision and choice. However, if learners with learning difficulties and disabilities cannot understand or interpret the information provided by NUS, then this is a barrier to participation
4. Learners with learning difficulties and disabilities are very limited in their choices for further education and it is essential that their rights are promoted, defended and extended.
5. Whilst valuable work and progress has been made and is ongoing within NUS on addressing accessibility issues for this group of learners, a more dedicated and consistent programme of training and a considerable organisation wide cultural shift is still required

Conference Resolves:

1. To further develop, maintain and deliver the FE Leaders programme developed specifically for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities.
2. This conference mandates the NUS Students Committee and National Disabled Students Officer to request that the VPFE and VPUD work to continue to review NUS information, seek and undertake relevant training and produce accessible versions, especially including summarised motions to enable informed choice for those who find processing huge amounts of complex information difficult.
3. A further call for continued visits from the NUS Disabled Students' Officer. This conference mandates action by the Disabled Students Officer and committee to request and call on the VPFE and VPUD through specialist providers to gain further understanding of how specialist colleges function and to ensure that training is relevant to need

Motion 304: Campaign to Stop and Scrap Universal Credit

Constituent Member: NUS Disabled Students' Committee

Conference Believes:

1. Full time disabled students in both FE and HE cannot claim Universal Credit, despite the fact they could claim some of the benefits that have been replaced by Universal Credit, such as Employment Support Allowance and Housing Benefit¹⁸.
2. For disabled part time students who can claim Universal Credit, there are many documented issues. These include: claimants going into rent arrears, claimants being in debt to the Department of Work and Pensions due to the delay on first payment, claimants having to use foodbanks and claimants in mental distress due to all the other issues with it¹⁹.
3. Many groups have come out against Universal Credit and have called for it to be "stopped and scrapped" including: Disabled People Against the Cuts²⁰, Mental Health Resistance Network, and the People's Assembly Against Austerity²¹

¹⁸ <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/students-and-universal-credit-briefing>

¹⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/oct/02/universal-credit-why-problem-can-benefits-system-be-fixed>

²⁰ <https://dpac.uk.net/2018/01/dpac-position-statement-and-motion-for-union-branches-on-universal-credit/>

²¹ <http://syypeoplesassembly.org/event/universal-credit-day-of-action/>



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4. Unite Community, a union which represents students, claimants and people currently not in work, have also called local and national days of action to call for at least a “pause and fix” of Universal Credit²².
 5. It is sexist, with payments being made to one person in the household, which prevents survivors of domestic abuse (and children) from leaving potentially abusive relationships²³.
 6. BME households are also more likely to end up in poverty as a result of already structural inequality and further issues caused by Universal Credit²⁴.
 7. Research shows that disabled people have on average £500 of extra impairment related costs a month that non-disabled people do not have²⁵.

Conference Further Believes:

1. For many disabled students, the money which they get through disability and welfare benefits is essential to help with the additional costs of living and studying.
2. Disabled people, including students, should have access to disability and welfare benefits in a way which is not invasive and punitive such as the current welfare system is.
3. A broad coalition of groups, student and non-student, disabled and non-disabled, is essential to fighting Universal Credit and its destructive consequences.
4. Although Universal Credit claims to simplify the benefits application process, it is based on a model of welfare which aims to stop “welfare dependency” which makes it irredeemable²⁶.

Conference Resolves:

1. For the Disabled Students’ Campaign to campaign for a “stop and scrap” of Universal Credit.
2. To work with other groups, such as DPOs, Trade Unions and other campaign groups to provide skills and training to disabled students and Student Unions in campaigning to “stop and scrap” Universal Credit.
3. To continue to lobby MPs to vote to stop and scrap Universal Credit.
4. To continue to maintain the Disabled Students’ Campaign’s position on the dehumanising nature of Work Capability Assessments and our position on their abolition.
5. For our demands around Universal Credit and other benefits to be intersectional, taking into account the multiple oppressions a claimant may experience.

Motion 305: Campaign to Implement the UNCRPD Recommendations

Constituent Member: NUS Disabled Students’ Committee

Conference Believes

1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities sets out what our human rights are in the context of disability.
2. The UK ratified the convention in 2009 but since the 2010 move to a Conservative government, disabled people in the UK have faced the “significant cuts to social benefits

²² <http://www.unitetheunion.org/campaigning/events/stop-and-fix-universal-credit-day-of-action/>

²³ <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/brexit/2017/10/woman-no-resources-woman-who-can-t-leave-why-universal-credit-feminist-issue>

²⁴ <http://www.24housing.co.uk/news/bme-communities-disproportionately-impacted-by-universal-credit/>

²⁵ <https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/extra-costs>

²⁶ <http://www.cpag.org.uk/content/universal-credit-universal-panacea>





that were affecting several of the rights of persons with disabilities enshrined in the Convention²⁷.

3. Disabled people are disproportionately affected by poverty and that social protection systems should protect and support disabled people throughout all stages of our lives.²⁸
4. Since 2010, we have faced significant cuts to all aspects of our lives, driven by inherently disablist, ideological driven Conservative government.
5. These cuts and changes to legislation and policy has resulted in abuses of our human rights and as a direct result over 100,000 disabled people have died “preventable deaths”.^{29,30}
6. The UNCRPD investigation took place between 12th and 23rd October 2015, visiting all nations, meeting with more than 200 individuals from government officers, members of the House of Lords and House of Commons, members of devolved legislatures, independent monitoring organisations, trade unions, disabled people organisations and a whole host of civil activists, researchers, academics and lawyers.

Conference Further Believes

1. The Conservative government repeatedly obstructed and disputed the investigation throughout its period, providing statements that “were not supported by evidence”.
2. The UNCRPD investigation found that “the threshold of grave or systematic violations of the rights of persons with disabilities has been met”.
3. The UNCRPD has made over 80 recommendations to the UK Conservative government.
4. The UK Conservative government “dodged many of the UN’s questions, made numerous unsubstantiated assertions and, when they did have the data, often used it in ways that were misleading”.³¹
5. The Conservative government has refused to acknowledge the findings of the UNCRPD report.

Conference Resolves

1. To campaign and lobby the UK government to recognise the findings of the 2016 UNCRPD report.
2. To campaign and lobby for the implementation of the UNCRPD’s recommendations.
3. To work with other disabled people organisations and groups for resolves 1 and 2.
4. For NUS Disabled Students’ Campaign to submit a formal request to the UNCRPD, to investigate the UK again, if substantial progress on the recommendations hasn’t been made.

Motion 306: Campaign Against Fitness to Study

Constituent Member: Durham Students’ Union

Conference Believes

1. Many institutions have ‘Fitness to Study’ policies in place³².
2. These mean disabled students are discriminated against due to their conditions, for instance in the case of prolonged hospital stays.

²⁷CRPD Inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out by the Committee under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, Report of the Committee. 6 October 2016

²⁸ UN General Article of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

²⁹ <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/11/e017722>

³⁰ Mo Stewart, The Human Cost of Welfare reform

³¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/04/austerity-disabled-people-rights-uk-un-government>

³² Durham University Policy https://www.dur.ac.uk/university.calendar/volumei/policies_and_strategies/



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3. Many students will often always meet a criteria for being “unfit” to study, whilst still being entirely able to complete their University degree to a high quality.
 4. Some students choose not to disclose or access services due to fear of these policies, presenting safeguarding issues.
 5. There is not a universal policy requiring support services to be up to standard and requiring the same policy to be implemented across Universities.
 6. ‘Return to Study’ policies are very difficult, requiring many individuals to have support statements which are not easily obtainable.

Conference Further Believes

1. Institutions place a vast amount of responsibility on the individual, and not on failing support services.
2. Fit to study policies are not always put in place in the interests of vulnerable students, but instead to ‘deal with problem students’³³.
3. A ‘fear of fitness to study’ policies can be detrimental to students, due to a lack of ‘reasonable adjustments’ in line with Equality Act 2010 and safeguarding risks.
4. Nondisabled students, and those not affected, are rarely aware of this policy.

Conference Resolves

1. To lobby for a cross-University approach to ‘Fitness to Study’ which includes strict criteria, written in such a way as to prevent institutions using the policy as a tool for discrimination and exclusion of disabled students, or those with mental health issues.
2. To further raise awareness of Fitness to Study policies.
3. To submit Freedom of Information Requests on how many students are on ‘fitness to study’ policies.

Motion 307: Access and recognition for students with autism

Constituent Member: Leeds Beckett Students' Union

Conference Believes

1. Around 700,000 people in the UK are on the autism spectrum³⁴.
2. Fewer than one in four school leavers on the autism spectrum stay in further or higher education³⁵.
3. A 2011 study from the University of Leicester found that most adults on the autism spectrum go undiagnosed³⁶.
4. A study carried out by Leeds Beckett University and Autism&Uni found the vast majority of students either do not disclose their autism to anyone at university, and even those that do, do not disclose it beyond disability services. Furthermore, “Survey data showed that 47% of responding students or ex-students with an autism spectrum condition had not been diagnosed by the time they started university. Nearly 30% of those who did have a diagnosis did not receive any support, either because no support was available or because they had not told the university about their condition. For those who did get

³³ Fit to study? Dealing with Problem Students.

<http://www.idras.ac.uk/designing-a-better-system-for-dealing-with-complaints/is-there-a-dispute/fit-to-study-dealing-with-problem-students/>

³⁴ <http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/services/assessments>

³⁵ Office of National Statistics (2009), Social Trends, No 39 and Data Service (2011), MI reports – Regional Learning Disability/Difficulty Report

³⁶ Epidemiology of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Adults in the Community in England:

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/211276>





support, 35% had it in place by the first week of studying. However, 48% had to wait for more than a semester³⁷.

Conference Further Believes

1. There is evidence, statistical and experience based, that the current provisions of the NHS can be hit and miss with regards to adult diagnosis. This can also push people to seek a private diagnosis, which can be costly and more difficult to get accepted.
2. Autistic students who receive appropriate support in a timely manner often thrive in higher education. If their skills, expertise, and interests are recognised then they have the ability to grow and develop alongside their peers.
3. It is important for further and higher education settings to create a culture of inclusion that will lead to positive outcomes for all students.
4. More needs to be done across universities nationwide to increase accessibility for students on the autism spectrum, and to make it easier for them to access the support they need as well as diagnosis and recognition.

Conference Resolves

1. The NUS is to lobby universities and the government to make further provision for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Higher and Further Education institutions.
2. The NUS is to lobby and work with universities, further education institutions, and the government review the issue of Autism Spectrum Disorders going undiagnosed.
3. The NUS is to campaign for better access to adult diagnosis.

Zone 400: Rules Revision

Motion 401: Adding the Opportunity of Job Shares to NUS Disabled Students' Committee

Constituent Member: NUS Disabled Students' Committee

Conference Believes:

1. NUS Disabled Students' Committee consists mainly of part time volunteers who have commitments outside of NUS.
2. Due to the nature of impairment and disability, the responsibilities on committee can become taxing for one individual.
3. NUS Disabled Students' Campaign should be at the forefront of inclusion of disabled people and all opportunities should be open regardless of disability.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Due to the nature of impairment and disability, members are currently being excluded from opportunities with the NUS DSC.
2. We as a campaign should change our standing orders so that we are more inclusive.
3. NUS LGBT+ Campaign and NUS BSC already have the option of job shares for all but Full-Time Officer and NEC place.

Conference Resolves:

1. TO ADD to the "Terms of office and eligibility of the Committee":

³⁷ Autism&Uni D2.3 Mapping Survey Report: <http://www.autism-uni.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/D2.3-AutismUni-Mapping-Survey-Report.pdf>





“108. a. All positions except the NUS Disabled Students’ Officer and National Executive Council Representative shall be available as job-shares with a maximum of two people permitted to share each position.”

2. TO ADD to the “Terms of office and eligibility of the Committee”:

“108. b. All positions which are filled as job-shares will remain having a single vote, with only one half of the job share attending any committee meeting in person. The other half of the job-share may attend via conference call or other accessible form of internet or telecommunication.”

Motion 402: Making Motions Accessible

Constituent Member: Disabled Students Steering committee

Conference Believes

1. Motions and amendments can be confusing and contain a lot of information, some of the language or requests may not be easily understood by delegates.
2. Delegates should be able to read and understand what motions are asking, especially when there may be a number to read through and digest.
3. Emergency motions may arise without being able for delegates to read through and understand content.

Conference Further Believes

1. That clarity through a brief summary can help accessibility
2. That clarity allows for delegates to understand and vote in the knowledge of what they are voting upon.
3. Giving reading time between emergency motions can assist delegates understand what is expected.

Conference Resolves

1. Add to rule 336:
“All motion proposals require a 100-word maximum neutral summary to explain briefly what the motion put forward is about and what it is looking to achieve.”
2. Add to rule 337
“All amendments require a 50-word maximum neutral summary to explain briefly what the amendment is and what it aims to achieve.”
3. That all emergency motions require at least 10 mins of reading time before being discussed and voted upon.
4. That if standing orders are suspended and further motions or amendments are submitted, Steering committee must adopt the same action of emergency motions allowing time to read and understand such motions.”

Motion 403: Trans and Non-Binary Inclusivity

Constituent Member: Durham Students’ Union

REMITTED TO DISABLED STUDENTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Conference Believes:

1. Trans individuals, including non-binary individuals, often experience marginalisation, even within liberation spaces.
 2. Non-binary is an umbrella, not a single gender identity. Some non-binary individuals include ‘woman’ and/or ‘man’ in their gender identity, and some do not.
 3. Non-binary individuals face discrimination and marginalisation on the basis of their gender.
 4. Without making inclusion explicit, feelings of exclusion can arise and last for long periods of time.
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5. Trans students should have their pronouns respected, and not have to encounter transphobia and/or misgendering, especially within liberation spaces.
 6. Transphobia in any form should not be tolerated within liberation spaces.
 7. Currently we have a LGBT representative, and a Trans* representative, while there is a NUS LGBT+ Campaign, and a NUS Trans Campaign.

Conference Further Believes

1. We should rename our 'LGBT Representative' to 'LGBT+ Representative', to be in line with the NUS LGBT+ Campaign.
2. We should rename our 'Trans* Representative' to 'Trans Representative', to be in line with the NUS Trans Campaign.
3. Non-binary individuals should not automatically be grouped with men unless they include 'man' in their gender identity, and they wish to be included in such a group.
4. Non-binary individuals should not automatically be grouped with women unless they include 'woman' in their gender identity, and they wish to be included in such a group.
5. Non-binary individuals come under the trans umbrella, and should continue to be represented by the Trans Caucus. However, there are still cases of non-binary individuals being/feeling excluded from trans spaces, and it is important that these voices are heard too. A Non-Binary Caucus would ensure that the voices of non-binary students are heard, and not spoken over, while allowing non-binary individuals to continue to be represented by the Trans Students' Caucus as well.
6. The act of stating your pronouns should be the norm, and not something only expected of trans individuals
7. The Steering Committee are responsible for the smooth running of conference, and should ensure that all publications are inclusive of trans (including non-binary) individuals, while taking a zero-tolerance stance on misgendering and transphobia.
8. By creating a Women's Place and a Non-Binary place on Steering Committee, we would ensure that a variety of genders are represented on Steering Committee, and this would help ensure that the diversity of gender is considered when organising Conference, that gender-neutral language is used when talking about groups of people and/or unknown individuals, and that complaints of misogyny and transphobia are taken seriously.

Conference Resolves

1. To replace Standing Orders 101(c)(iii) with:
 - i. "iii. One LGBT+ representative"
 2. To replace Standing Orders 101(c)(ix) with:
 - i. "ix. One Trans representative"
 3. To replace Standing Orders 101(c) with:
 - i. "c. Up to 13 individual members with voting rights, elected from Conference and from caucuses:"
 - b. and add under 101(c):
 - i. "x. One Non-Binary representative"
 4. To ask the Disabled Students Steering Committee Review and report back inclusivity of the Membership of the Steering Committee.
 5. Mandate the Disabled Students Steering Committee and Disabled Students Committee to work and review other liberation campaigns and steering membership to look at best practice. This includes seeing new reserved spaces and how they should be elected, along with the duration of office. The potential reserved spaces being 1. Woman's and 2. Non-binary positions. The Steering committee is to review and put forward agreed rule changes to the next Disabled Students Conference.
 6. To add after Standing Orders 353, under "Procedures and points of order during Conference", renumbering as necessary:
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- i. "354. The Chair, Steering Committee, and all other speakers shall not make any assumptions regarding the gender identity or pronouns of individual Members."

Motion 404: Ace Rep for Disabled Students Committee

Constituent Member: Leeds Beckett Students' Union

Conference Believes:

1. Asexuality is defined as limited/lack of sexual attraction towards others
2. Ace people experience attraction and feelings of others differently
3. Ace identities are misunderstood by most in the student movement and among the liberation campaigns.
4. The term ace is used across NUS to refer to asexual and/or aromantic spectrum individuals, including but not limited to: asexual, demisexual, gray-asexual, aromantic, demiromantic, and gray-aromantic
5. Aromanticism is defined as limited/lack of romantic attraction towards others

Conference Further Believes

1. Those working around disability and LGBT+ areas have tried to distance themselves from the incorrect assumption that all disabled people are ace.
2. There is very minimal awareness, if any at all, of what ace is and the issues experienced.
3. With no specific Ace Rep on the committee, there is no guarantee that ace spectrum students are fully represented, nor their issues and experiences be broadly known by the wider student body.

Conference Resolves:

1. Amend the standing orders to mandate two LGBT+ reps, one defining as Ace, positions on the Disabled students committee, to add:
 - b. **"101** Membership of the committee
 - C. Up to 15 members with voting rights, elected from Conference and from caucuses:
 - i. Two LGBT+ representatives, One reserved for Ace members, with one vote total."
 2. The position to be elected annually at Disabled student's conference with a one-year term of office (a maximum of two).
 3. To mandate the LGBT+ rep on DSC to work with the ACE rep on LGBT+ committee on issues affecting ACE disabled students.
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