

Agenda for 438th Union Council

Thursday 10th October 2019, 6:30pm
A39, Sir Clive Granger Building, University Park Campus

- Introduction by Union Council Facilitator
- Motion: Reproductive Autonomy Policy

Motion:

Reproductive Autonomy Policy

Union Council notes:

- Abortion is legal in England and Wales and subsequently Scotland in the circumstances outlined in the *Abortion Act 1967*.
- Abortion remains illegal in Northern Ireland, except where deemed necessary to save the life of the mother.
- As per the *Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019* if the Northern Ireland Executive is not formed by 21 October abortion will be decriminalised in Northern Ireland.
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights is recognised within the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- The NUS have pro-choice policy: *NUS Motion 506: NUS supporting the Abortion Rights Campaign for free, safe and legal abortion in Ireland and Northern Ireland [April 2017]*.
- The Union's Charitable Objects include promoting the welfare of students at the University of Nottingham.
- The Union has two live policies pertaining specifically to the struggle for reproductive autonomy in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland: *Support Repeal the 8th* and *Support Abortion Law Reform in Northern Ireland*.

Union Council believes:

- Abortion is an issue of reproductive-autonomy and bodily-autonomy for pregnant people and people who may become pregnant.
- The propagation of misinformation regarding abortion can impede a person's access to safe abortion and be distressing for pregnant people and people who may become pregnant.
- Lack of access to safe abortion can be damaging for our members' engagement in their education.
- Distress and harm to a students' wellbeing negatively affects their educational experience.

Union Council resolves:

- University of Nottingham Students' Union shall be a pro-choice institution.
- The Union shall stand in solidarity with pregnant people and people who may become pregnant in the global struggle for safe and accessible abortion.
- The Union shall support our members' right to safe and accessible abortion.

- The Union shall support our members to access safe abortion when requested.
- The Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer shall work with the Women*s Officer and ESJ Officer and their respective Networks to run a pro-choice campaign promoting access to and providing information about safe and accessible abortion.
- Any materials or messaging distributed at any event or in any forum related to the Union or by any group affiliated to the Union which make 'scientific' or 'statistical' claims about abortion must be academically referenced. These materials may be checked by the Union and removed if inaccurate.