

# Agenda for 440<sup>th</sup> Union Council

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 6:30pm  
A42, Sir Clive Granger Building, University Park Campus

- Introduction by Union Council Facilitator
- Motion: Combatting Antisemitism
- Motion: Fundraising
- Motion: Elections Leafletting

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## Motion 1:

### **Combatting Antisemitism and Supporting Jewish Students**

**Primary Officer: Community Officer**

**Secondary Officer: TBC**

## Union Council Notes

1. The UK has experienced record levels of antisemitism over the last three years. The Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 1,346 antisemitic incidents in 2016, 1,382 antisemitic incidents in 2017, and 1,658 in 2018.<sup>1</sup>
2. There is a problem with antisemitism on campus, where we have seen swastikas, 'Hitler was right' stickers, and issues of antisemitism within student societies.<sup>2</sup>
3. The Holocaust was a genocide which killed 6 million Jewish people and 5 million others, including LGBT+ individuals, disabled people, people of Roma descent and political opponents.<sup>3</sup>
4. Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on the 27th January every year. This marks the liberation of Auschwitz- Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi death camps.<sup>4</sup>
5. Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the victims of the Nazis as well as those killed subsequently in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cst.org.uk/publications/cst-publications>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/oxford-university-labour-club-anti-semitism-report-baroness-royall-jewish-students-a7170446.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/>

6. It is a day to not only remember, but to honour the survivors of these hateful regimes and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experience to inform our lives today.

### **Union Council Believes**

1. The Union has an important responsibility to ensure that Jewish students feel safe on campus and are free to fully express their Jewish identities without fear.
2. As time goes on, it becomes all the more important to commemorate the Holocaust and provide Holocaust education.
3. It is important that all Full-Time Officers at the Union have training on the issues that affect Jewish students.

### **Union Council Resolves**

1. The Union should condemn antisemitism and it shall investigate any allegations made by students.
2. To mandate the Community Officer to hold at least one Holocaust Memorial Day event per year to educate students and remember the victims of the Holocaust, for instance bringing pertinent speakers on campus, or holding ceremonies. This should be well publicised.
3. The Union to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, in accordance with the UK Government, the National Union of Students, and the Union of Jewish Students – (<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>)
4. To hold antisemitism awareness training each year for the Full-Time Officers run by the Union of Jewish Students (UJS).
5. To celebrate Jewish culture and festivals e.g. "Happy Chanukah" and "Happy Passover" messages on SU screens.

### **Motion 2:**

#### **Fundraising**

**Primary Officer: Activities Officer**

**Secondary Officer: Community Officer**

### **Union Council Notes:**

- A lot of active student groups organise at least one fundraising event per year.
- At the moment no formalised training is provided to any student groups with regards to fundraising.
- No single staff member is obliged to provide support with fundraising, with regards to the legislations surrounding it.
- No student can get support from the union to set up a fundraising event as an individual, unless they are a part of a student group (incl. booking a room or using the finance office).
- There is no centralised platform for the members of the union to engage in fundraising.
- The union is unable to supervise all the fundraising activities or see the fundraised total of all student groups and the union overall.
- There is not enough recognition for the current fundraising activities.
- Fundraising is a very special form of volunteering, due to its strict and complex legislation as well as a different set of skills.

### **Union Council Believes:**

- It is important to engage in fundraising activities as a union, which is already evident from our student groups' engagement.
- If the groups were empowered with the necessary fundraising training and guidance it will make their fundraising more efficient and compliant with the relevant legislation.
- Being able to see the overall fundraising total of the union will encourage sense of belonging and engagement with the union, as well as allow us to recognise the fundraising efforts of different groups, show the causes the students are passionate about and demonstrate the impact of UoN student fundraising for causes and charities.

### **Union Council Resolves:**

- Support the fundraising activities of all members of the union and recognising the benevolence of the efforts and dedication to make a difference in the world.
- Centralise the fundraising activities in the union by making all of them go through the same procedures via the same platform, so they can be protected, supported and supervised by the union.

- Dedicate a staff member to supervise the union's fundraising and train them in the relevant legislation.
- Create a student committee of volunteers to help supervising the fundraising, provide training to student groups, support individuals who want to engage in fundraising but are not a part of a student group, and help identifying and liaising with the charities relevant to the causes of fundraising.
- Provide the necessary training to the student groups and individuals.
- Adopt an online platform, which will allow looking after all the online fundraising within the union.
- Calculate and showcase what the union raises overall, while recognising the separate efforts of groups and individuals and the causes that the money was raised for.
- Create a way of giving fundraising awards open to all students, which acknowledges individuals, student groups, events, and other entities.

### **Motion 3:**

#### **Student Leader Elections Leaflets**

**Primary Officer: ESJ Officer**

**Secondary Officer: President**

#### **Union Council notes:**

- According to statistics published by the government of the United Kingdom<sup>6</sup>, 4.7 million tonnes of paper and cardboard was wasted in 2017.
- The Union has declared a state of climate and ecological emergency in a previous policy at Union Council.
- The Union Strategy includes commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and an alignment to be responsible.
- According to conversion factors published by the government of the United Kingdom<sup>7</sup>, the production of one tonne of paper has a conversion factor of 952.68kg of carbon dioxide equivalent gases (CO<sub>2</sub>e). For recycling, the conversion factor is given as an additional 21.354kg, while landfill yields an additional 1041.888kg CO<sub>2</sub>e.

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<sup>6</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/784263/UK\\_Statistics\\_on\\_Waste\\_statistical\\_notice\\_March\\_2019\\_rev\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/784263/UK_Statistics_on_Waste_statistical_notice_March_2019_rev_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2019>

- Both the current and previous Environment and Social Justice Officers were elected on campaigns which advertised themselves as paperless, and used no leaflets.
- The current Environment and Social Justice Officer pledged to work to ban the use of leaflets in elections as part of their successful election campaign<sup>8</sup>.
- According to information collected by Oberlo<sup>9</sup>, 90.4% of 'millenials' are active users of social media, and 73% of marketers believe social media is effective for their business.

**Union Council believes:**

- Social media marketing is becoming increasingly important in the modern age.
- Candidates in Student Leader elections should generally uphold the values of the Union except where their manifesto stands in opposition to existing values and/or policies.
- Single use promotional materials such as leaflets are discarded at the end of the campaigns period, and as such are a significant contributor to the Union's environmental footprint.
- Removing the need for candidates to purchase and distribute leaflets will free up resources in their campaigns budget for other opportunities, such as social media marketing.

**Union Council resolves:**

- The Union shall ban candidates in Student Leader Elections from the purchase and/or distribution of leaflets, booklets, and other similar single use promotional materials.
- The Union shall encourage candidates in Student Leader Elections to use social media and physical presence marketing, and shall publish information on how to maximise the effectiveness of this.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/leesjnottm/posts/398410810716132>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.oberlo.co.uk/blog/social-media-marketing-statistics>