

No Platform Policy

Preamble:

Fascism, racism, LGBTphobia, sexism and ableism are all strands of thought and oppression within society which seeks to sow divides between ordinary people. As a Students' Union it is our job to represent all students and to attempt to unite students against these attacks. As a part of this it is key that we do not allow those who wish to spread hatred and division onto our campus and it is the job of the Students Union executive to educate members on the need to oppose discrimination and the need for No Platform.

Students Unions have been instrumental in seeking to challenge discriminatory behaviour, from making a stand against apartheid in South Africa to more recently successfully getting the regulations banning Men Who Have Sex with Men from donating blood overturned.

Students Unions should be safe spaces for all and we should be making sure we are a safe space by not allowing those who wish to further marginalise the oppressed onto our campus.

We equally need to push the University to remain safe for students, and we should do that by ensuring the University adopt a similar No Platform policy.

The Students Union also recognises that No Platform only works where such groups do not have a platform already – as such whilst we do not permit these individuals or organisations onto our campus, nor will we share a platform with them where they do not have a platform; turning down the opportunity of challenging their views in places where they do have a platform, such as local election hustings or challenging elected officials within external media, would be foolhardy and counterproductive.

Motion:

1) This Union believes

- a) That fascism, racism, LGBTphobia, sexism and ableism are still widespread in all aspects of society and should be confronted wherever they are found.
- b) That students and students' unions have a long proud record of achievement in the fight against fascism, racism, LGBTphobia, sexism and ableism.
- c) That in line with the union's equal opportunities policy, the union should be at the forefront of campaigns to combat prejudice on the form of ethnic origin, religious belief, sexuality, gender or ability – i.e. fascism, racism, LGBTphobia, sexism and ableism.
- d) That a no platform policy is a key element in the fight against fascism and intolerance on campus.

- e) That the no-platform policy compliments equal opportunities policies and the Public Order Act.
- f) That no platform policies safeguard its members from being subjected to the lies, bigotry and hatred of fascists, racists, LGBTphobes, sexists and ableists.

2) This Union notes

- a) That some members will take issue with what no platform amounts to and that it is the responsibility of the executive to educate its members on the issues surrounding a no platform policy.
- b) That the university has in the past invited elected fascist councillors onto campus to discuss local government.

3) This Union resolves

- a) Not to allow any individual who is known to hold fascist, racist, LGBTphobic, sexist or ableist views from entering union premises.
- b) Not to allow any individual who is known to hold fascist, racist, LGBTphobic, sexist or ableist views to speak at a union event.
- c) Not to allow any individual who is known to hold fascist, racist, LGBTphobic, sexist or ableist views to distribute any written or recorded material in the union which expresses those views.
- d) Unless said individual already has a public platform; no elected officer of the union will speak on a platform with an individual who is known to hold fascist, racist, LGBTphobic, sexist or ableist views.
- e) That resolutions a to d shall be known as the unions 'No Platform Policy', and that this motion, including preamble, shall be presented to those questioning the policy as an initial explanation.
- f) To widely publicise this policy, not only to members but to all stakeholders including the university – particularly pushing the university to adopt a similar policy.
- g) To incorporate the No Platform Policy into the Union's disciplinary procedure and use it accordingly.
- h) To mandate the executive to educate members on the issues surrounding no platform.
- i) To use the attached resolution of banned organisations; which the executive, with approval by council, can add to in line with local or national changes.