

A Campus Wide Boycott of Coca-Cola 13/02/14

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Union Notes:

1. We are all aware the living conditions for LGBT+ people living in Russia are pitiful with the constant fear and sometimes horrible reality of hate motivated attacks. This is due to Putin's disgusting archaic called propaganda laws banning "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations" to under 18's, fairly similar to Section 28.
2. A young LGBT+ Activist was arrested during the Winter Olympic torch relay and this was done by a games maker with Coca-Cola branding on his jacket and all this for holding an LGBT+ Flag.
3. Russia's parliament has unanimously passed a federal law banning gay "propaganda" amid a Kremlin push to enshrine deeply conservative values that critics say has already led to a sharp increase in anti-gay violence. The law in effect makes it illegal to equate straight and gay relationships, as well as the distribution of material on gay rights. It introduces fines for individuals and media groups found guilty of breaking the law, as well as special fines for foreigners.
4. Unfortunately, corporate sponsors are not speaking out against the human rights abuses of LGBT+ people at the Olympics and within Russia as a whole.
5. Coca Cola state in their own human rights statement "Our Company has always endeavoured to conduct business responsibly and ethically. We respect international human rights principles aimed at promoting and protecting human rights, including the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and we actively participate in the United Nations Global Compact".

Union Believes:

1. As stated by the International Olympic Committee (2013) that "The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play".
2. As stated by the International Olympic Committee (2013) that "Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race,

religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement”.

3. As stated by the International Olympic Committee (2013) that “Belonging to the Olympic Movement requires compliance with the Olympic Charter and recognition by the IOC.
4. As stated by Coca Cola in their human rights statement (2013) that “Coca Cola has always endeavoured to conduct business responsibly and ethically. We respect international human rights principles aimed at promoting and protecting human rights, including the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labor Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and we actively participate in the United Nations Global Compact”.
5. Coca Cola being one of the longest and most well-known sponsors of the Olympic movement are in a position to highlight the out of date and barbaric practices enforced and encouraged by the Russian Government, they talk the talk it is about time they walked the walk and spoke out with regards to the human rights of all people regardless of their sexuality.
6. The continued abuse of people’s human rights in a barbaric fashion like that of pussy riot, the Arctic 30 and the LGBT+ supporter arrested by the Games maker wearing a Coca Cola Games Maker uniform just because of their sexuality must stop, they also feel this will not change until large corporations like Coca Cola speak out and refuse to support governments like Russia

Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Students’ Union and the elected officers, to lobby and work with all departments within Anglia Ruskin University ensuring no Coca Cola products are sold or stocked on campus including catering outlets, shops and vending machines throughout the Winter Olympics in Sochi, LGBT+ history month unless Coca Cola speak out with regards to the treatment of people with regards to their sexuality.
2. To mandate the student’s union and its elected executive officers to actively run a campaign encouraging students to protest in the form of letters and a petition to the government within the United Kingdom requesting they assert some pressure on Russia, the International Olympic Committee and Coca Cola.
3. To mandate the Students’ Union and its elected officers to fully support students in any way possible in highlighting the continued abuse of human rights within Russia including the imprisonment of people like Pussy Riot and the Arctic 30.