

No Platform Policy 14-11-2013

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Union Notes

1. That the Union has a responsibility to protect the welfare and security of all of its members.
2. That the National Union of Students (NUS) has a 'No-Platform Policy'.

Union Believes

1. That debate and discussion is a valuable asset to the educational and cultural experience provided at university and should be maintained and encouraged.
2. That freedom of speech is an important right and should be respected.
3. That there is a difference between preventing freedom of speech, and avoiding the promotion of speakers who are very likely to incite hatred on the grounds of religion, race, sexuality, gender, ability or social standing.
4. That therefore, freedom of speech can be respected and maintained, whilst actively not giving a high-profile platform to an individual or organisation who is very likely to incite hatred or has been known to have incited hatred on the aforementioned grounds.
5. That hate crimes increase when speakers with extremely racist, homophobic, transphobic, sexist, ableist or fascist views are actively given a high-profile platform and this presents a very real risk to students.
6. That all students have the right to study in a safe environment in which they do not feel threatened, unsafe or the victim of the aforementioned prejudice.
7. That organisations that provide a platform to speakers and/or organisations that promote such views, could be seen as endorsing their views.
8. That permitting these individuals and organisations to have a platform on our campuses undermines our responsibility to the welfare and safety of our students and our commitment to opposing prejudice and hatred towards specific groups.

Union Resolves

1. To not allow, and if necessary, campaign against organisations and/or individuals who pose a threat to the welfare or security of our members.
2. To actively campaign against any organisations that seek to provide a platform to groups and/or individuals that pose a threat to the welfare or security of our members.
3. To create a list of organisations that will be campaigned against and not allowed to take part in Union events.

4. That Students' Union representatives will not share a platform with the groups and/or individuals listed, even for the purpose of debate.
5. That this list may be added to and organisations removed from time to time by Union Council in order to be kept up to date.
6. To distribute the No Platform Policy and make copies available from all our offices and the Internet as well as making all employees of the Union aware of it.
7. That if an individual is likely to incite hatred and has been known to have incited hatred on the grounds of religion, race, sexuality, gender, ability or social standing then action can and will be taken against them if there is significant evidence to expect this.
8. To produce a report to explain the importance of both the No Platform policy and fighting against prejudice in all its forms.
9. That if the No Platform Policy is breached, those involved can be disciplined via the Students' Union disciplinary procedure.
10. To create an initial list of organisations to include:
 - i. Hizb-ut-Tahrir
 - ii. The BNP
 - iii. The National Front
 - iv. The White Wolves
 - v. Combat 18
 - vi. The Storm Front
 - vii. Al-Muhajiroun
 - viii. The EDL
 - ix. Abort 67