

EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

Title:	Equal Access	Date of Student Council:	05/12/2017
Proposer name:	Grace Anderson	Role:	MA Sociology Rep
Seconder name:	Michael Turner	Role:	Trans* Students' Rep (Cambridge)

Union Notes:

1. The Union's values state that: "We champion equality, diversity and inclusion. We respect the needs of the individual and the wider student community."
2. The Union supports the concept of tuition free education (signified by continuous support for the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC) national demos) which at its core is to ensure everyone can access higher education.
3. Refugees in the UK and asylum seekers appealing to the UK are treated as international students in ARU's Higher Education Funding System.
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/may/31/asylum-seekers-overseas-students-fees>
4. Refugees in the UK are given an allowance of £36 a week to live on. www.star-network.org.uk

Union Believes:

1. That refugees have a right to seek education in their country of residence and that this should be made accessible to them.
2. That being a refugee, forced to seek asylum in another country, is very different from being an international student, who chooses to study in the UK and can return to their home country at any time.

Union Resolves:

1. To campaign for ARU to classify all those seeking asylum as home students for fee purposes.
2. To campaign for ARU to offer at least 10 scholarships that cover study and maintenance costs for people who have come to the UK seeking refugee protection.
3. To campaign for ARU to publicise their Equal Access policies and make them easily locatable, so that potential students can easily apply for these scholarships.
4. To publicise its support for refugees and their right to education during Refugee Week.
5. To publicise its support for refugees and their right to education during relevant political votes in the Houses of Parliament, including encouraging local MPs to vote in support of refugee needs.