

Heading: Clearing the racists off our campuses

NUS Zone: Welfare

This union believes:

1. A number of worrying trends are developing nationally, which have their root in racist policy and rhetoric of the government and media.
2. These include Islamophobic scapegoating, the tendency to “blame the victims” around issues such as gun and knife crime, and a subsequent growth of support for fascist organisations like the BNP.
3. Much of the debate and discussion on crime and violence has revolved around the African–Caribbean community, with the use of phrases such as “black on black” crime, coupled with the idea that many black families are dysfunctional.
4. The ensuing climate of racism has given rise to electoral gains of the BNP, and their attempts to operate on campuses – the BNP youth organiser was defeated in attempts to invite Nick Griffin to Bath University, and Griffin and David Irving have been invited to debate at the Oxford Union.
5. A major part of the battle against racism involves unity and mass involvement amongst the student body. This has been embodied in the campaigns and events run by Love Music Hate Racism (LMHR).
6. LMHR promotes messages of unity and multiculturalism through the various debates and music events we put on. Recent successes include a massive LMHR university tour, “Love Music Hate Islamophobia” events, hosting the leftfield stage at Glastonbury, and a national CD project with NME magazine.
7. While organisational and bureaucratic measures can never be substituted for mass action, the “no platform for fascists” policy can be a valuable tool in the fight against the Nazi BNP and similar groups.

This union further believes:

1. That with the issue of gun and knife crime it is essential that we are looking at, and targeting, the root causes of the problem: social deprivation, poverty, school exclusions and racism.
2. That the anti–Islamophobia policy passed at last year’s conference was a progressive step forwards, but we need to ensure that it is acted on whenever necessary.
3. The basis of the “no platform for fascists” policy is that fascists use the excuse of free speech to peddle racist filth which undermines democratic rights for others, and creates a climate of fear in which racist attacks rise.

This union resolves:

1. To affiliate to Love Music Hate Racism.
2. To institute and implement a “no platform for fascists” policy.
3. To support the NUS Black Students Campaign in their campaign around the issues of gun and knife crime.
4. To send this motion to NUS Conference 2008 in the Welfare zone, changing the word “union” to “conference” in each of the three section headings, deleting point 4 in “This union resolves”, and replacing point 2 in “This union resolves” with “To campaign for a “no platform for fascists policy” in every students’ union”. The proposer of this motion or their proxy will be sent to NUS compositing.

Words: 396 after deletions (463 before deletions)