

Policy name: Anti-semitism

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Student Council notes:

That 'anti-Semitic attacks are on the rise in Britain', with incidents such as brick attacks on synagogues, anti-Jewish graffiti and even bomb threats occurring in recent years.

That the Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 924 anti-Semitic incidents across the United Kingdom during 2015.2

That Northern Ireland's only Rabbi, David Singer, told BBC Radio Ulster's Sunday Sequence on Sunday 2nd October 2016 that he has received suspicious e-mails and came across anti-Jewish graffiti in the centre of Belfast.3

That the national student movement has been rocked by allegations of anti-Semitism and the concerns of Jewish students have been repeatedly downplayed by some of those in leadership positions.4

That NUS motion 404 'Anti-Semitism on campus' resolved to lobby Students' Unions in order to encourage them to have clearer policies on responding to anti-Semitic incidents and situations in which Jewish students feel threatened.5

That UUSU has, to the current date, not had any known issues with regards to anti-Jewish oppression, prejudice and hatred.

That April Rosenblum, in her 2007 pamphlet 'the past didn't go anywhere: making resistance to anti-Semitism part of all our movements', expands in great detail on the nuances surrounding modern day anti-Jewish oppression and why it is absolutely vital to integrate a radical analysis of, and opposition to, all manifestations of anti-Jewish hatred and oppression into the work we already carry forward.6

Student Council believes:

That regardless of whether an anti-Semitism problem exists or not on our own campuses it would still be advisable to hold a policy that addresses anti-Semitism on campus, provides a workable definition of anti-Semitism and gives guidance on what steps can be taken to combat this particularly odious form of hatred.

That all forms of racism and oppression are abhorrent and should be uncompromisingly opposed with as much effort and energy as can be mustered.

That anti-Semitism is a specific form of racism, relating to Jews and Judaism.

That anti-Jewish oppression is the system of ideas passed down through a society's institutions to enable scapegoating of Jews, and the ideological or physical targeting of Jews that results from that.

That the definition of anti-Semitism has been debated and disputed as a result of political influences relating to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

That a workable definition of anti-Semitism can be found provided by noted scholar Brian Klug who has defined anti-Semitism as a 'form of hostility towards Jews as Jews, in which a Jew is perceived as something other than what they are'.⁷

That anti-oppression ethics, coupled with a thorough understanding that multiple oppressions can manifest at one time and are often complex and multi-layered, is crucially important in our efforts to acknowledge anti-Semitism as still being a major problem in society today.

That anti-Semitism includes, but is not limited to:

- (i) Questioning the loyalty of Jews to their state of citizenship simply on the basis of their Jewish identity, which includes claims that Jews as a collective or a community engage in efforts to subvert or mislead the general population, as well as the claim that Jews are more loyal to the state of Israel than their country of citizenship, is an anti-Semitic position to hold;*
- (ii) Claiming or making any effort to create a reality in which Jews do not have the same rights as any other religious, cultural or ethnic group, including the right to free speech, free practice of religion, free use of native languages (i.e. Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, etc.) and self-determination;*
- (iii) Denying, trivializing and misconstruing the Nazi Holocaust. This includes denying the fact, scope, method, or motivation for the genocide of six million Jews at the hands of the National Socialist regime. It also includes the accusation that Jews or the state of Israel have fabricated, cause or over-exaggerated the Holocaust;*
- (iv) Calling for, aiding or justifying the killing or harming of Jews for the sake of their Jewish religion, ethnicity or identity;*
- (v) Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as Jews or for being Jewish. This includes accusations of Jewish control of the world, of our political structures and government, the media, as well as blaming Jews collectively for imagined and real atrocities;*
- (vi) 'Equating Jews or maliciously equating Jewish organisations and the polity of the state of Israel with the Nazi Regime. This includes, but is not limited to equating Zionism with Nazism and claiming that 'History is repeating itself' with regards to the Nazi Holocaust and the state of Israel. This also includes using Jewish symbols and religious imagery alongside Nazi symbols and imagery. However, this does NOT necessarily include reasonable analogies between historical events';*
- (vii) Using Jewish symbols to antagonize, harass, and intimidate Jewish students.*
- (viii) Assuming that because a person is Jewish that they will automatically hold particular political views and positions regarding Zionism and Israel;*
- (ix) Demanding a Jewish person or group of Jews collectively to present an opinion or position on the Israel-Palestine conflict and where those demands are often aggressive, intimidating and harassing;*

- (x) *Labelling Jews that hold differing political positions on Zionism and Israel as 'kapos', 'self-hating Jews' or 'traitors';*
- (xi) *Deliberately using terms 'Zio' and 'Zionist' as pejorative terms of abuse in order to isolate and attack Jewish students and members of Jewish communities.*

That criticism of the Israeli government, its policies and actions are not inherently anti-Semitic and neither is reasoned criticism of Zionism and its impact in Palestine and upon the Palestinian people.

Student Council resolves:

The UUSU, including the entire Student Executive, is mandated to publicly oppose actions on campus that are anti-Semitic based on the aforementioned definitions.

The Student Executive will ensure all anti-Semitic incidents aimed at or perpetrated by Ulster University students either verbal, physical or online are dealt with swiftly and effectively in conjunction with the university and, if appropriate or requested by the victim, the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

That Student Executive be mandated to publish a bi-annual report detailing all incidents of racism, including anti-Semitic incidents and instances of anti-Jewish oppression that have occurred on campus during the previous six months and the actions taken by UUSU and the university.

The Students Executive is mandated to work with relevant university staff in order to address racism and anti-Semitism on campus and methods to alleviate it.

The work of organisations such as Jewdas8, the NUS and Union of Jewish Students is consulted when developing work against anti-Semitism so as to ensure resources are provided to help Students to understand the nuances and fully comprehend these policies.

The pamphlet of April Rosenblum9 is viewed as a key resource and made available (once permissions have been sought and granted) for students to access on the UUSU Website under a section specifically designed to tackle all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, in order that the Union might better promote and enhance legitimate debate regarding the morality, problems and human rights issues surrounding international conflicts whilst also remaining resolutely committed to opposing the manifestation of illegitimate and illegal acts of anti-Jewish oppression on campus.

That this motion be brought forward by UUSU to both the NUS National Conference 2017 and the NUS-USI National Conference 2017 in a format that is appropriate for the national conferences.

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1 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/israelgaza-conflict-rise-of-antisemiticattacks-in-uk-as-crisis-rages-in-the-middle-east-9631174.html>

2 <https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2016/02/04/cst-antisemitic-incidents-report-2015-published-today>

3 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37533746>

4 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-37489745>

5 [https://nusdigital.s3-eu-west-](https://nusdigital.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/document/documents/24818/Welfare_Live_Policy_201417.pdf)

[1.amazonaws.com/document/documents/24818/Welfare_Live_Policy_201417.pdf](https://nusdigital.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/document/documents/24818/Welfare_Live_Policy_201417.pdf) ⁶

<http://www.buildingequality.us/prejudice/antisemitism/rosenblum/the-past.pdf>

⁷ See Brian Klug, 'The collective Jew: Israel and the new Anti-Semitism', *Patterns of Prejudice*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2003, 117-138.

⁸ <http://jewdas.org/how-to-criticise-israel-without-being-anti-semitic/>

⁹ <http://www.buildingequality.us/prejudice/antisemitism/rosenblum/the-past.pdf>