

UJS Conference 2017 Policy Document

Campus

Motion Title: CA1 UJS should re-issue and maintain its no-platform policy in regards to individuals who spout holocaust denial

Proposer's name: Daniel Katz

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Chana Bernstein

Seconders J-Soc: Leeds

What's the idea?:

We note that Holocaust denial has been spread on Campuses across the UK – in particular the phenomenon of 'Holocaust revisionism' is becoming disturbingly prominent. David Irving, a notable 'Holocaust revisionist' has been invited to speak at many campuses over the last few years.

We further note that the LSE SU passed a no-platform policy for Holocaust deniers, recognising their prominence on London campuses.

We do not believe Holocaust denial is not a form of 'genteel' historical revisionism – as many such as Professor David Cesarani and Anthony Julius have said in public, this phenomenon may easily be perceived as neo-Nazi propaganda, a mask for anti-Semitism hiding behind a shamelessly hypocritical 'defence of free speech.'

We therefore believe that Holocaust education is vital for a multitude of self-explanatory reasons; and the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) and Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is truly invaluable.

How do you want it to happen?:

To further such aims, the UJS National Council be mandated to condemn any individual

and/or institution politicising Holocaust Memorial Day in a way which causes offence to

many.

Secondly, campaigning against Holocaust denial and promoting Holocaust education should become an official policy of the UJS for the upcoming annual policy cycle.

The UJS should re-issue and maintain its no-platform policy in regard to individuals who

spout Holocaust denial. Additionally, the UJS National Committee lobby relevant Student

Unions to foster and encourage Holocaust education on campus. As part of these efforts,

the UJS National Council should lobby and encourage JSocs around the country to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and continue to work with organisations such as HET and HMD

Motion Title: CA2 Timetabling, exams and deadlines

Proposer's name: Hannah Rose

Proposer's J-Soc: Bristol

Seconders name: Nathan Boroda

Seconders J-Soc: Warwick

What's the idea?:

1. Jewish students across the country often face difficulties relating to timetabling of contact hours, deadlines and exams.
2. Exams regularly clash with Shavuot during summer exams and many universities don't have adequate procedures in place to support students affected by this.
3. Many universities schedule mandatory classes and other contact hours on Friday afternoons which are particularly problematic during the winter term for Shabbat observant students.
4. Deadlines can be set by universities without considering Shabbat and festivals.
5. Many Students' Unions held their Freshers Fairs on Rosh Hashanah this year, meaning that hundreds of Jewish students couldn't attend these hugely important parts of university life.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS to campaign to ensure that Students Unions and university calendars include Jewish festivals.
2. UJS to provide briefings for Students Unions and Universities about what each festival entails and about Shabbat and how that affects Jewish students.
3. UJS to work alongside Chaplains at universities to provide support to students affected by these issues.
4. UJS to, where appropriate, raise the issue with NUS Officers to make sure that NUS campaigns for the welfare of Jewish students affected by the issues outlined above.

Motion Title: CA3 Affirming the UJS Commitment to ongoing Interfaith Work

Proposer's name: Lauren Keiles and Hannah Kaufman

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds and LSE

Seconders name: Dalia Landau and Daniel Rafaeli

Seconders J-Soc: Leeds and UJS Sabbatical Team/Leeds

What's the idea?:

1. To increase awareness of Jewish students on campus, in relation to other faith groups by strengthening ties
2. To improve relationships, understanding and tolerance between faith societies on campus
3. To enhance the representation of faith groups within the Student Union
4. To combat racism and religious hate crimes
5. To break down any barriers of communication between faith societies to create positive alliances
6. Strengthening good interfaith relations at all levels, is one method to ensure that society is accepting, tolerant, and cohesive.
7. Religions and different cultural groups provide individuals in society with a support network, but more so with an identity that they are proud of. Interfaith work ensures that we come together as a community, acknowledge the strengths of our unity, and attempt to further reinforce them through sharing our community and identity together.
8. The current continuation of the marginalisation of minority communities within the UK is especially troubling. The challenges of societal integration, exacerbated by barriers of ongoing institutional racism and/or cultural exclusion, can facilitate feelings of detachment from society and make groups more prone to developing extreme or radical views.
9. University is a time where students formulate their views and opinions through engaging in educational curriculum content, but also through the extra- curriculum activities that they engage in.
10. Interfaith activities on campus promote education and understanding of different religions and their practices. This can foster greater degrees of tolerance and

sustained acceptance of minority communities, through encouraging celebrations of religious and cultural diversity.

How do you want it to happen?:

1. UJS should encourage J-Socs to have a full-time interfaith officer on J-Soc committees
2. UJS should continue their ongoing commitment to Interfaith engagement through continuing to have a J-Soc officer actively dedicated to Interfaith work.
3. UJS should encourage and support J-Socs to facilitate interfaith events, open forums for all students of faiths and invite guest speakers to bring all faith societies together to combat common issues
4. All J-Socs should aim to run at least one interfaith event during the National Interfaith Week and both the UJS Interfaith student network and team should support students in order for this to be achieved
5. UJS should have a longer or more comprehensive Interfaith session at UJS Summit for Interfaith Officers. In addition to this, Interfaith and its importance should still be taught to other committee members such as presidents, to ensure that Interfaith officers are not the sole contributor to interfaith work on campus.
6. UJS should encourage Interfaith work year-round, and not solely on Interfaith week, through an emphasis on long-term projects and non-time bound event topics.
7. This can also occur through encouraging students to participate in Interfaith leadership courses offered by organisations such as the Council for Christian and Jews, the 3FF Parlia-mentors programme, and St. Ethelburgas.
8. UJS should work and continue to work with external Interfaith providers.
9. To diversify Interfaith activities on campus, through J-Socs and their national work, UJS should aim to increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, that are often left out of Interfaith programmes, such as the Bahai community, Sikh community, and people of Gypsy/ Roma/ traveller heritage.

Motion Title: CA4 Jewish Genetic Disease Awareness

Proposer's name: Charles Hillman

Proposer's J-Soc: St Andrews

Seconders name: Kathryn Rose

Seconders J-Soc: UJS Sabbatical Team

What's the idea?:

Tay Sachs Disease is a severe genetic disorder that causes progressive damage to the nervous system which gradually decreases an ability to move. The carrier frequency of Tay Sachs in the Ashkenazi Jewish population is approximately 1 in 27, as opposed to 1 in 250 in the general population. It is also frequent in Moroccan Jewish communities and Jews of Iraqi descent.

UJS have a reach to a large number of Jewish students and although there is no formal research, there is likely to be at least half of the Jewish student population of Ashkenazi descent. This is one example of the plethora of genetic diseases Jewish people are more susceptible to than the general public, though many people don't know. Therefore awareness and testing is something that could have a great impact on many students.

Testing in the Ashkenazi Jewish population is NHS funded.

Information in this motion is taken from both the NHS website and JNetics, a charity which helps to prevent, diagnose and manage Jewish genetic disorders.

How do you want it to happen?:

UJS Conference 2017 mandates the UJS Sabbatical team of 2017-18 to look into the potential of running a Jewish genetic diseases awareness and testing campaign.

UJS Conference 2017 mandates the Sabbatical team of 2018-19 to continue the work of the previous sabbatical team.

UJS Conference 2017 mandates the UJS president to update UJS' membership through a blog post on UJS' research/progress/success on this topic every 6 months.

Motion Title: CA5 Reaffirmation of CST as the port of call on campus in dealing with antisemitism

Proposer's name: Maya Sterrie

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Emily Otvos

Seconders J-Soc: LSE

What's the idea?:

It wishes to thank the CST for all the work it has done to ensure that Jewish students are safe on campus and guarantee the continuation of the vital work.

Jewish students must be continually aware of the work CST do, and should be encouraged to be involved in their localized teams

It also wishes to reaffirm CST's place as the port of call for antisemitic incidents on campus

How do you want it to happen?:

Conference must push UJS to continue to utilize the CST-UJS antisemitism guide not just during fresher's but all year round

This motion will mandate UJS to promote the course which trains student volunteers. The course helps protect both Jewish students on campus, whilst providing them with invaluable skills that helps them when they leave university in dealing with antisemitism.

The Student Security Coordinators should be available to Jewish students who should have their contact details when they begin their term to ensure the swift dealing with incidents

Motion Title: CA6 No Hate Speech on Campus

Proposer's name: Lauren Keiles

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Tom Smith

Seconders J-Soc: Roehampton

What's the idea?:

1. The Union of Jewish Students is committed to make campus a safe space
2. This principle has been translated in their opposition of speakers coming into Universities which carry anti-Semitic rhetoric and holocaust deniers to name some examples
3. UJS is against extremism; hate crime on the basis of gender, sexuality, race, religion, background or a disability.
4. UJS should work with Jewish student activists, J-Socs and Student Unions in order to inform them with examples on speakers that could be coming into University who hold these beliefs.
5. In the same way we would not allow a Jewish speaker to come and talk to us on campus who held Islamophobic or homophobic beliefs for example, we need to make sure that other societies are not bringing in these speakers.
6. Standing up against these beliefs will allow the Jewish student community to foster better relations with other communities and make sure that UJS is a more inclusive place for Jewish students of all identities.

How do you want it to happen?:

1. UJS and J-Socs should lead by example and not be associated with any organisation who hold extremist beliefs, a far right ideology, homophobic attitudes, are racist or who are discriminatory based on religious grounds.
2. UJS should assist Jewish Students to work with their Student Unions to inform and educate them on speakers and organisations that are coming in that could potentially spread hate or have history of this behaviour.
3. UJS should work with the Board of Deputies to constantly update this list

Motion Title: CA7 Jewish students should elect their own representatives

Proposer's name: Jessica Levy

Proposer's J-Soc: Birmingham

Seconders name: Adam Goldstone

Seconders J-Soc: Birmingham

What's the idea?:

Jewish students do not have any guaranteed representation in the national or liberation democratic structures in the National Union of Students (NUS).

Jewish students have played a vital role in the battles against racism and fascism on campus, from fighting far right groups such as National Front and National Action to Islamist groups such as Hizb-Ut-Tahrir and Al Muhajiroun.

Traditionally, a Jewish student on the National Executive Council of NUS had played a role in leading the NUS Anti-Racism, Anti-Fascism committee (ARAF), a sub-committee of the NEC.

The current system for ARAF Committee is a committee of 7 spaces in the following format:

- a. BSO and BSC NEC
- b. A Jewish member
- c. A Muslim member
- d. an LGBT+ member
- e. an International/migrant member
- f. one open place for any member

These positions will be added to for next year's ARAF Committee with a Women's rep, a Trans rep and a Disabled Rep.

Each rep is elected by self-defining members of that group from NUS NEC.

Though there are often Jewish members on NEC, none of these have been elected by Jewish students. They cannot be held to account by Jewish students, showing the need for an autonomous decision by those students.

Jewish students should be able to elect a Jewish NEC member, or a Jewish

student in the event of no Jewish person on NEC, to represent them on the ARAF Committee.

How do you want it to happen?:

Jewish students, through UJS, should elect the Jewish representative on the NUS Anti-Racism, Anti-Fascism committee.

UJS should work with NUS to find a system to allow Jewish students to vote for their own representatives.

UJS should support the availability of a co-option of a Jewish student to the NUS ARAF Committee in the event that there are no Jewish students on NEC.

Community

Motion Title: CO1 Save Lives, Support Opt-Out Organ Donation

Proposer's name: Nathan Boroda

Proposer's J-Soc: Warwick

Seconders name: Hannah Rose

Seconders J-Soc: Bristol

What's the idea?:

Conference believes that the decision taken by the both major political parties to support an opt-out system for organ donations is commendable.

There are currently 6,388 people on the transplant list, and an average of three people a day die because they do not get one. Whilst there are 21 million people on the Organ Donation Register, a larger pool of donations will be created in an opt-out system.

The 'pikuach nefesh' of an opt-out system is an important part of Judaism, underpinned by the principle that "one who saves a single life- it is as if they saved the entire world."

Furthermore, this is particularly pertinent for Jews, as an ethnic minorities, because it more difficult to find suitable organs.

How do you want it to happen?:

Conference resolves that the Union's delegates to the Board of Deputies should be mandated to support opt-out organ donation and lobby the Board to reverse their decision to oppose opt-out.

Motion Title: CO2 Ensuring UJS is committed to Social Action through positive change and not just financial donations

Proposer's name: Lauren Keiles

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Carla Bernstein

Seconders J-Soc: Leeds

What's the idea?:

1. UJS should ensure that social action is undertaken through both both encouraging charitable donations within J-Socs as well as encouraging social change through other means.
2. Social action means taking steps to change things that are unjust in society and introducing new ideas and processes for improving things.
3. Education and campaigns should be utilised within social action projects.

How do you want it to happen?:

1. UJS should continue their work with other charity partners to engage students in tikkun olam.
2. UJS should continue to run a Homelessness in Succot project each year when Succot falls in term time. This is a project that involves education surrounding a social issue while encouraging students to make an impact in the wider society through social action.
3. The format of this project should be used to encourage similar ones.

Motion Title: CO3 Campaign to reopen Dubs Amendment

Proposer's name: Frankie Simons

Proposer's J-Soc: Manchester

Seconders name: Sally Patterson

Seconders J-Soc: Bristol

What's the idea?:

From December 1938 to August 1939 Britain allowed 10,000 Jewish children on the Kindertransport to seek refuge from Nazi Germany, including Alf Dubs a leading campaigner for refugee rights.

Exodus 20:22 teaches us that 'you shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you we're strangers in the land of Egypt.'

There are currently 95,000 unaccompanied refugee children living in Europe.

In 2016 more than 25,800 unaccompanied children risked their lives to reach Europe.

Section 67 of the immigration act 2016, often known as the Dubs Amendment, required the government to relocate to the UK and support unaccompanied child refugees.

Lord Dubs expected the government to allow 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees into Britain, however the government have only allowed 200 children to enter and have announced the scheme will close after 480 children have enters.

UJS should be campaigning to reopen the Dubs Amendment.

How do you want it to happen?:

Britain has a responsibility to relocate, support and welcome unaccompanied child refugees to the UK.

UJS should be at the forefront of fighting for these issues, given Jewish history.

UJS should press the government to reopen the Dubs Amendment as well as honouring the Children at Risk Scheme, the National Transfer Scheme and Dublin legislation under EU law to take in unaccompanied child refugees if they can be reunited with family in the UK.

UJS should lobby local authorities to do their utmost to allocate resources to unaccompanied child refugees to show the government that more than 480 refugee children can be accepted into Britain

Motion Title: CO4 Fighting Islamophobia

Proposer's name: Sally Patterson

Proposer's J-Soc: Bristol

Seconders name: Clare Levy

Seconders J-Soc: Edinburgh

What's the idea?:

Many students across the United Kingdom continue to face discrimination and hatred everyday. Unfortunately, Islamophobia is an ever-present feature of UK campus life; Metropolitan Police statistics suggest that hate crimes against Muslims in London have risen by 70% in the past year. Furthermore, as the vitriol around the Islamic Centre in Golders Green has shown, Islamophobia in the Jewish community is on the rise.

UJS must not only show solidarity with students who face Islamophobia, but also pre-emptively tackle anti-Muslim rhetoric.

How do you want it to happen?:

- UJS will adopt a zero tolerance policy on racial hatred, including Islamophobia.
- UJS will support JSocs in creating stronger links with Islamic Societies, and work with FOSIS on a national level.
- UJS will support JSocs in locating and organising Islamophobia awareness training for committees and members
- UJS will continue to encourage interfaith activities both nationally and locally.

Motion Title: CO5 Make Votes Fair: Support Automatic Voter Registration

Proposer's name: Nathan Boroda

Proposer's J-Soc: Warwick

Seconders name: Frankie Simons

Seconders J-Soc: Manchester

What's the idea?:

- Students voices are being weakened as a result of the Government 2018 boundary review changing the number of constituencies to 600 from 650
- The changes in boundaries are weakening the student vote too
- Registering Students and educating them on the key issues is key to making students voices heard
- Jewish students, as a niche within the student community have even more niche policy concerns that are also affected by these issues

How do you want it to happen?:

- UJS must put pressure on individual universities to support automatic voter registration
- UJS must also put pressure on the government to mandate automatic voter registration at university to make sure Jewish voters are heard

Motion Title: CO6 Liberation History Months

Proposer's name: Rebecca Filer

Proposer's J-Soc: UJS Sabbatical Team

Seconder's name: Chana Bernstein

Seconder's J-Soc: Leeds

What's the idea?:

1. Marginalised groups (women. Disabled, LGBT+) in society are often forgotten within history, meaning that important figures who aren't male, pale and stale aren't taught in our education systems or enter public consciousness.
2. Women's, Disabled and LGBT+ history months all exist to rectify this and bring to the fore the experiences of these groups over time.
3. It's important that UJS strengthens and empowers students from these groups through UJS Liberation Networks.
4. UJS has a vital role to play in adding Jewish voices and experiences into these history months that take place at universities and Students' Union.

How do you want it to happen?:

1. UJS must commemorate Women's, Disabled and LGBT+ history months with at least one event and article.
2. UJS must encourage J-Socs to mark these months by providing ideas of template events that they can run.

UJS and J-Socs

Motion title: UJ1 Make 'listening' UJS' fifth core value

Proposer's name: Leoni Benabú Morales

Proposer's J-Soc: Manchester

Seconders name: Lawrence Rosenberg

Seconders J-Soc: Manchester

What's the idea?

Right now there are 4 UJS core values:

Cross-communalism

Peer-leadership

Representation

Engagement with Israel

I propose that UJS establishes listening as its fifth core value so that our voices and opinions are heard louder than ever.

How do you want it to happen?

I want this motion to be passed at the UJS conference, and then to be added to the list of UJS core values.

Motion title: UJ2 Establish a Clear Framework for Individual Event or Programme Funding

Proposer's name: Hannah Kaufman

Proposer's J-Soc: LSE

Seconders name: Cassie Weinstein

Seconders J-Soc: Lancaster

What's the idea?

UJS currently gives financial support of Jewish Societies through budget forms that are mainly based per head attendance.

This can put smaller Jewish Societies at a disadvantage, especially as fixed costs can often use up most of the budget and leave little spare for food etc.

Additionally, this can make financing for a week programme or stalls more difficult and confusing.

In order to ensure that UJS facilitates all Jewish Societies ambitions regardless of size, we propose that there should new framework that directly allocates an Annual Fund to sponsor individual events and programming.

Whilst at the moment UJS does try and help out individual JSOCs so that events can still run, through the establishment of a more formal and clear process, we hope that it will support and encourage more exciting events or programmes.

By having the ability to request funding for individual projects or events, this will also assist JSOCs to expand their potential and can encourage broader student-run campaigns which have the capability to focus on long-term aims.

Through incentivising more progressive and innovative events to happen, this can help JSOCs potentially develop both in scope and widen participation.

How do you want it to happen?

UJS to allocate a block fund that will directly be available to help sponsor events and programmes. (The exact figure set aside is calculated by the finance team and approved by the UJS President and Trustees.)

The types of projects or events that should be considered for funding can involve:

- more irregular large-scale events for smaller JSOCs.
- educational projects by all JSOCs which may require investment of specific equipment, or stalls.
- Awareness weeks or campaigns that may require funding for advertising, leaflets and resources.

In order to receive funding, from UJS, a JSOC should complete an application that sets out the event/programme summary and a proposed budget of projected costs. This format should work in parallel to the existing budget forms for regular JSOC events.

Motion title: UJ3 UJS should provide better support for J-Soc balls

Proposer's name: Dana Winter

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Adam Newman

Seconders J-Soc: Leeds

What's the idea?

J-Soc balls are a very important aspects to life on campus, since J-Socs aren't only three to provide religious events. For some universities they are also an incredible source of philanthropy. UJS should be more involved through this process, whether the J-Soc is planning their 1st or 100th ball.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS should help provide speakers to come to campus that are associated with the ball, for example a speaker coming to campus from a charity that the ball is fundraising for.
2. UJS is mandated to sponsor at minimum £1 per person that attends the ball. These funds should be used for aspects to attribute the event itself and not alcohol. These funds should be used to engage students to partake in a Jewish student activity.
3. To ensure the funding of this event the committee organising the ball must give the date of the ball 3 months prior to the event. If this is not possible funding options will be discussed with the J-Soc officers and the finance team.
4. The funding allocations will be discussed by finance at UJS as an economies of scale should be considered with smaller J-Socs as well as for first time balls.
5. The travel grant will be advertised to use for those on campus' that do not have a ball to ensure they can engage in this exciting aspect of Jewish life.

Motion title: UJ4 Building Bridges in the Palestinian territories

Proposer's name: Lauren Keiles

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Noah Libson

Seconders J-Soc: Goldsmiths

What's the idea?

1. Building on the continued success of UJS' "Bridges Not Boycotts" campaign, we must recognise that a peaceful solution is not going to be reached overnight and we must therefore promote activity which will maximise the potential for peace in the short and long term.
2. Currently, several Palestinian villages in Area C (an area comprising 60% of the West Bank that Israel governs) – including Ein al-Hilweh, Umm Jamal and Susiya – are facing a demolition order from the IDF. Constructions within Palestinian villages in Area C are regularly demolished, and their inhabitants are often victims of settler violence.
3. Home demolitions, restrictions to access of basic resources, and denial of construction permits increases the tension between the Palestinian villagers and Israeli settlers and are a barrier to peace.
4. It is the stated policy of UJS to support a two-state solution in line with the assessments of the vast majority of Israel's former security chiefs that the only way to guarantee Israel's security is to establish a regional peace resolution and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

How do you want it to happen?

1. The more informed the activists in the 'Bridges Not Boycotts' campaign are, the stronger the campaign will be, therefore UJS must be committed to expanding Israel education to increase students' awareness of the day-to-day realities of Palestinian life. This includes the intricacies of the political situation on the ground including the differences between Areas A, B & C.
2. Expand the UJS Manhigut trip to visit at least one Palestinian village in Area C so that this generation of leaders and activists may see it first-hand and are empowered with a nuanced understanding of the situation.
3. Endorse organisations that promote a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through advocacy and dialogue. The choice of organisations to promote will be made by the UJS President and Campaigns team.

Motion title: UJ5 Online harassment: it's not on

Proposer's name: Izzy Lenga

Proposer's J-Soc: NUS Sabbatical Officer

Seconders name: Hannah Sharron

Seconders J-Soc: UJS Sabbatical team

What's the idea?

- Social media is a significant part of students' lives and most of us use it every day.
- The last year has seen a rise in racially and religiously motivated hate crimes, particularly online and social media. There has been a particular rise in the harassment of women of faith, including high profile figures such as MPs.
- Homophobia and transphobia are also prevalent on transphobia. A 2013 report found that one in 20 lesbian, gay and bisexual people had reported being a victim of online harassment because of their sexuality in the past year.
- The anonymous nature of some social media sites, and the feeling of distance that a computer or phone can provide, has led to a worsening of this issue.
- As with all harassment, online harassment typically goes underreported.
- According to the UJS Code of Conduct, 'Behaviour which is deemed to be unacceptable includes but is not limited to behaviour which is physically or emotionally abusive, offensive, defamatory, distressing, aggressive, threatening, coercive or intimidating, either in person or on social media.' A person who acts in this way 'shall be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to being asked to leave an event (at the individual's own cost) or suspension or withdrawal of Membership where applicable, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the Constitution.'

How do you want it to happen?

- UJS to circulate NUS Guide to Online Harassment.
- UJS' elected National Council to develop a Social Media policy to be integrated into the existing Code of Conduct.
- UJS to seek avenues to work with social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook to look at ways to educate around and reduce online harassment, particularly that which is faith-motivated or faith-based.
- UJS to make reporting of online harassment visible on the website.

Motion title: UJ6 Presidential accountability at UJS

Proposer's name: Joshua Holt

Proposer's J-Soc: UJS Sabbatical team

Seconders name: Samuel Gold

Seconders J-Soc: UJS Sabbatical team

What's the idea?

- UJS conference will vote to ensure that the previous year's motions are sufficiently accounted for by the UJS team and President
- Before each basket the President of UJS will do a speech or video explaining what has been done in the year since the last conference to uphold the continuity of UJS from year to year

How do you want it to happen?

- This motion mandates Presidents and UJS teams to showcase their work over their term so far at UJS conference to illustrate how they are carrying out the constitution of the organization
- It can either be via speeches before each 'basket' or via videos
- This should also be shared to UJS' wider membership outside of conference

Motion title: UJ7 A clear plan for Jewish student mental health

Proposer's name: Hannah Rose

Proposers J-Soc: Bristol

Seconders name: Izzy Lenga

Seconders J-Soc: NUS Sabbatical Officer

What's the idea?

Mental health support and campaigning is a priority for NUS and students' unions. Currently UJS runs Reclaim, a week-long campaign on mental health, but mental health is a 52-week issue.

How do you want it to happen?

Deliver mental health first aid training to at least one member of each J-Soc committee.

Work with students' unions to ensure universities' mental health services are culturally competent and understand the specific needs of Jewish students.

Continue to work with Jami and ensure they understand the needs of students, and that Jewish students' mental health stays high on the agenda in our community.

Motion title: UJ8 UJS should not support exclusive groups

Proposer's name: Emma Jacobs

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Sally Patterson

Seconders J-Soc: Bristol

What's the idea?

1. All Jewish students should have the right to access UJS and J-Soc events. Unfortunately, some students find this more difficult to do than others. This means that it is the duty of UJS to ensure that marginalised groups are included, not excluded, from events run by J-Socs locally and UJS nationally.
2. Marginalised groups within the Jewish community continue to face challenges; for example, negative stereotyping of women and 'lad culture' prevails on many campuses. According to Jewish Women's Aid, 1 in 4 Jewish women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. Furthermore, LGBT+ individuals often choose not to engage with Jewish communal life, due to widespread ignorance about their specific needs and issues (Keshet UK).
3. We cannot alleviate these issues within the Jewish community when organisations and events operate and exclude based on gender.
4. All J-Socs must embody the values of cross-communalism, one of UJS's four core values. Cross-communalism is vital for building open and inclusive Jewish campus communities.
5. UJS must aim to create a positive environment on campus that promotes equality and inclusion; groups which perpetuate sexism and exclusion in the Jewish community should not receive the support, money or association of J-Socs or UJS.

How do you want it to happen?

1. UJS and J-Socs will not support or host events with organisations that restrict membership based on arbitrary categorisation. This includes, but is not limited to, financial or logistical support.
2. We recognise that many campus communities and organisations exist, however JSocs must be inclusive spaces. Thus no organisations that base themselves around exclusivity should benefit from UJS or JSoc resources. Resources include, but are not limited to, J-Soc co-funding/ co-hosting, social media, membership lists and buildings/ spaces.

Motion title: UJ9 Working with Youth Movements

Proposer's name: Clare Levy

Proposer's J-Soc: Edinburgh

Seconder's name: Eli Gordon

Seconder's J-Soc: Birmingham

What's the idea?

Youth movements are an incredible asset to the Jewish community, linking Jewish youth and Jewish students together and creating young leaders.

These communities can sometimes be seen by members as a replacement to other Jewish provision and community on campus, and this should not be the case.

We understand that not everyone feels like there is a place for them in J-Soc, however members of youth groups should be encouraging J-Socs change from within before resorting to joining a separate group.

How do you want it to happen?

UJS should continue to work with Youth Movements to encourage members to join J-Socs and make changes from within. This may involve doing sessions in Hadracha courses or during summer activities.

J-Soc Presidents and committees should be connected with members of various youth movements who are students at their universities in order to work together to make a J-Soc that works for everyone.

When a separate group is present on campus, UJS should encourage the group to advertise to all members of the J-Soc so that the group is inclusive.

Motion title: UJ10 Maximising Conference voting and engagement

Proposer's name: Clare Levy

Proposer's J-Soc: Edinburgh

Seconders name: Frankie Simons

Seconders J-Soc: Manchester

What's the idea?

The constitution states that conference voting must be done at a time which will enable the largest possible number of members to vote (10.7), however due to the diverse nature of student life there is no one time that can maximise the number of voters.

UJS should look into an online voting system for individuals with circumstances out with their control that mean they cannot travel, including exams, term times and personal wellbeing.

We believe that democracy is vital to the running of a good union and therefore we want to encourage as many individuals to vote as possible.

How do you want it to happen?

UJS must research methods into online voting, including live-streaming of conference, in order to make conference inclusive and accessible for all.

UJS should continue to promote attending in person as the primary form of voting in order to continue encouraging and fostering lively and important debates.

UJS should create a system in order to ensure only those who have genuine limits on their attendance, including exams and health reason.

UJS should create an online form to sign up for online voting so that individuals must give a reason for their inability to attend.

When finance is given as a reason UJS will work with that individual to ensure they are able to attend.

Motion title: UJ11 Location and timing of national UJS events to include Scottish J-Socs

Proposer's name: Andrew Williams

Proposer's J-Soc: St Andrews

Seconders name: Clare Levy

Seconders J-Soc: Edinburgh

What's the idea?

We propose that UJS looks at changing the timing and location of national events to encourage a higher level of representation from J-Socs in Scotland.

We understand that large events such as Summit (in Shrewsbury), Conference and smaller events such as the Balfour Panel (both London) must be organised with the majority in mind, however when locations and timing are unfavourable it is unsurprising that students from Scotland are very rarely able to attend. For example, Scottish universities have exams at the beginning of December so are unable to attend Summit and/or Conference. Furthermore, travelling from the different universities in Scotland can often be extremely long journeys.

If these factors are considered more than it would encourage greater representation from Scottish J-Socs. This is vital as the Jewish student community in Scotland is growing and thriving. There is no reason why this trend of growth is not set to continue and national events should reflect the entire make-up of the Jewish student body in Britain, not just England.

How do you want it to happen?

We propose that UJS looks into different options of timing and location for national events, and talk to the students on different campuses around the country to make sure that event timing and location fit with students' needs.

We further propose that if there is no suitable option for national events, UJS considers running multiple regional events to allow for greater participation around the country.

Motion title: UJ12 Active Pluralism

Proposer's name: Baruch Gilinsky

Proposer's J-Soc: Oxford

Seconders name: Penina Myerson

Seconders J-Soc: Oxford

What's the idea?

UJS prides itself of being a leading cross-communal organisation and, as JSocs, we have the opportunity of benefiting from such incredible diversity of our students.

To make our JSocs as welcome as possible, every JSoc Committee should receive guidance of how to cater for students across different denominations as this will increase the reach of our societies and enrich our Jewish student experience.

How do you want it to happen?

UJS should provide all JSocs with a cross-communal handbook and one or more webinars, outlining the aspects that characterise each denomination and the best practical ways to make our JSocs cross communal and as inclusive as possible of students from all background. This content should primarily be derived from open consultation with UJS members, and with organisations which represent different denominations of Jewish students, about the issues and needs facing different denominations of Jewish students.

These resources would help both newly elected committees and more experienced ones when planning religious, cultural, educational and social events, and gain a deep understanding of the aspects valued by students belonging to different denominations.

As a wider goal, UJS should work with all Jewish Societies to ensure that non-Orthodox Jews have a space within the any space owned or used by JSoc to do what they want, such as holding egalitarian services, for example.

Motion title: UJ13 More accessible kosher food

Proposer's name: Sarah Levy

Proposer's J-Soc: Glasgow

Seconders name: Milan Marcus

Seconders J-Soc: Edinburgh

What's the idea?

UJS should work to help students access cheaper kosher food, whether working with shops to help students obtain deals or discounts on products or delivery, or by helping individuals J-Socs with delivery costs.

After Titanic's closed, it has become a lot more difficult for northern communities to access Kosher food, which is necessary for many students and especially for J-Soc Shabbat dinners.

Students who keep kosher should not be put at a financial disadvantage because they cannot buy kosher food locally, and UJS should be working to find a way to help them.

This is worsened when it comes to certain festivals, such as Rosh Hashana and Pesach, where the burden of expensive Kosher meat impacts a larger number of students.

How do you want it to happen?

UJS to contact the kosher food providers in major cities to encourage them to offer student discounts.

UJS to offer students subsidies to access kosher food according to the ease of access, rather than with a one-size-fits-all model.

UJS to support with the delivery costs of kosher meat for more remote J-Socs.

Motion name: UJ14 Women in Leadership

Proposer's name: Dana Winter

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Izzy Lenga

Seconders J-Soc: NUS Sabbatical Officer

What's the idea?

- Faith communities including our Jewish community lags behind the wider world in terms of female leadership. The JLC, UJIA, CST and Board of Deputies are all led by men, and the winner of the most recent '30 Under 30' was male.
- Cross communalism is a core value of UJS but this is too often interpreted as just denominational inclusivity. In fact, it ought to mean inclusivity for those of minority gender identities and sexualities too (as well as LGBT+ and disabled students.)
- As a group predominantly made up of 18-26 year olds, we are the future of our community and if we want to see women and non-binary individuals taking up leadership roles in the next 5-10 years, we need to equip them at university levels to develop as leaders.

How do you want it to happen?

- Reserved places for women and non-binary individuals on all UJS structures – 50% rounded down – including on National Council and Board of Deputies representatives. UJS aspires to implement this for the UJS Sabbatical Team, to improve representation of those who are currently underrepresented and whose voices are not otherwise heard.
- UJS to actively support women and non-binary individuals pursuing leadership roles by developing a leadership programme for final-year women and non-binary students.

Motion Title: UJ15: UJS should have a travel policy in order to allow J-Soc members to attend events at other J-Socs

Proposer's name: James O'Neill

Proposer's J-Soc: Swansea

Seconders name: Guy Oberlander

Seconders J-Soc: Cardiff

What's the idea?

Smaller J-Socs can often have great difficulty in recruiting members to join their societies and attend their events. This motion seeks to mandate UJS to establish a travel fund to allow members of J-Soc to travel to J-Soc events at other universities. This will allow these students to experience Jewish life to the fullest, something that can be very difficult at smaller universities.

These events should include, but not be limited to:

Friday Night Dinners

Events celebrating the High Holidays

Social events celebrating Jewish life

Events of activism, including Israel advocacy

How do you want it to happen?

A travel fund should be accessible through the general expenses form provided by the Finance department, with preference for the money to be paid into bank accounts as soon as possible following the submission of the form.

Motion Title: UJ16: Supporting International Students

Proposer's name: Dana Winter

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Anouk Sarfati

Seconders J-Soc: Leeds

What's the idea?

- UJS has worked to increase visibility of its work to support international students in the past year, including a dedicated section clearly signposted on the new website and (so far) a launch event of the 'Home and Abroad Network' for international students. However, more can be done.
- Whilst they are not completely alone, the majority of international students lack the same immediate support networks that home students enjoy. The principle of 'kol yisrael aravim zeh la'zeh' – all of Israel is responsible for each other – applies as Jewish students permanently based in the UK having a responsibility to support their peers who are here temporarily for the purpose of studying.
- With uncertainty surrounding the manifestation of Brexit, EU students are likely to be facing situations where they may need more support.
- International students are less likely to report crime (NUS report 2016), which can be presumed to include antisemitic incidents.
- International students may not have anywhere to store their possessions over summer holidays, if they are required to vacate their term-time residences and are unable to move into their new properties due to tenancy agreements. They are therefore often required to pay for storage units or transport everything back to their home country, which can be extremely costly.
- International students often arrive at the start of term, which launches them straight into High Holy Day season, and they may not know where to go for these festivals.

How do you want it to happen?

- International students should be able to store their possessions in UJS-owned properties such as Hillel Houses over the summer holidays, free of charge. UJS should advertise this under the international students section of the website. Where Hillel Houses are not owned by UJS (e.g. Birmingham), UJS should lobby the

management of these properties to facilitate this.

- The International Students section of the UJS website should have a direct link to reporting antisemitism on the CST website to increase visibility.
- UJS should provide greater support for EU students surrounding Brexit. The specifics of this cannot yet be determined, due to nobody actually knowing how Brexit will manifest and how, if at all, it will affect students; but UJS should commit to signposting EU students to appropriate practical support such as through the National Union of Students' International Students Campaign and, where relevant, may choose to provide other support at the discretion of the President when Brexit actually.
- UJS will expand the 'Home and Abroad' network beyond London to other areas of the UK which have large international student populations and will support international students from other areas to attend these events.
- UJS will gather and distribute information on High Holy Day services online and at freshers fairs.

Motion Title: UJ17: Defining Zionism

Proposer's name: Dan Kosky

Proposer's J-Soc: Nottingham

Seconders name: Ben Levene

Seconders J-Soc: Nottingham

What's the idea?

In some academic and political circles, the term "Zionism" has become a dirty word. Compounded by events such as the 2001 Durban Conference and the 1975 UN Resolution equating Zionism with racism, the denial by some of Jewish self-determination has continued almost 70 years after the establishment of the State of Israel.

UJS needs to have an official definition of Zionism in order to protect Jewish students and their right to self-determination, whilst allowing those who have issues with Israeli policy or specific governments to make these criticisms legitimately.

How do you want it to happen?

The current debate on Israel is often conducted in a way that denies Jewish students their right to self-determination, and to uniquely do so for Jews is Antisemitic.

The concept of Zion is fundamental within Jewish liturgy, history, and culture, evidenced through the numerous references to the people of Israel and Jewish settlement in the land since Biblical times. On account of this connection, the only place for Jewish self-determination to be expressed is in Zion and the Land of Israel - a fact that is internationally recognised.

It is perfectly acceptable to question and condemn specific policies of the Israeli government or the government itself, but this does not excuse attacking the internationally proscribed rights of a particular people.

UJS will understand “Zionism” to be the Jewish national self-determination in their ancient homeland, the Land of Israel, in accordance with the same right afforded to any other peoples under international law.

UJS will work with organisations in the Jewish community to seek wider recognition of this definition.

Motion Title: UJ18: This Union will work to ensure orthodox practising students feel they have a place on any campus

Proposer's name: Josh Brickman

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Lawrence Rosenberg

Seconders J-Soc: Manchester

What's the idea?

For practising Orthodox students, their only real options of living a comfortable religious life on campus are London, Birmingham and Leeds. However, Birmingham and Leeds are often not considered suitable environments to comfortably live a religious life, because of lack of access to kosher food, regular prayer services and accessibility for keeping Shabbat.

As a result, most of these Orthodox students live at home in London. It shouldn't be that these students feel that they have to stay in London, and potentially miss out on the campus university experience because of their values and beliefs. UJS should be doing more to ensure that campuses are catering the highest denomination to show and encourage students that there is a place for them outside of London.

How do you want it to happen?

- UJS should ensure that any student, anywhere can get access to a shabbat pack with kosher food every week
- UJS should have a kosher cafe running in every Hillel House they have across the country
- UJS should ensure that 'kosher flats' on campuses are actually kosher flats, and that they are Shabbat friendly too
- UJS should actively promote to Jewish schools informing them about how they can live an orthodox life on campus

Motion Title: UJ19: Internal Review of UJS

Proposer's name: Sally Patterson

Proposer's J-Soc: Bristol

Seconders name: Hannah Rose

Seconders J-Soc: Bristol

What's the idea?

This motion notes the passing of the motion UJ12, titled "Outreach engagement and Inclusivity with the UJS" last year which, among other things, mandated our Union to:

- The creation of an Inclusivity Officer or portfolio on every JSoc committee around the UK
- Training days throughout the year on different Jewish denominations
- The creation of a UJS 'Denominations 101' handbook
- The inclusion of denominational engagement in the job descriptions and expectations of UJS' JSoc Officers, as well as ongoing education inclusivity training

This motion notes that UJS has not yet enacted much of this motion, and further notes that commitment to diversity and 'cross-communalism' have been inadequate over the past few years. Lack of inclusivity appears to be structurally ingrained within campus life. Progressive students in particular remain unwilling, and in some cases discouraged, from attending JSoc and UJS events, as evidenced by the limited number of non-Orthodox students running and/or being elected to JSoc committees in winter 2017.

Furthermore, Jewish students who define into specific liberation groups, including LGBT+ and Disabled Students, continue to have limited access to support or targeted initiatives within UJS; unfortunately many students are not engaging with Jewish life on campus. Although UJS may have increased its commitment to diversity and inclusivity in recent years, this is not filtering down to campus level.

This motion, therefore, calls on UJS to conduct an internal review on the effectiveness of the organisation to deliver a truly cross-communal union. This review should examine the following aspects of the existing structure:

- The existing 'Network' structure; what material/staffing resources are currently allocated to these
- The denominations of Jewish students involved with the following activities, and whether these reflect the make-up of the Jewish community:
 - 1.) UJS
 - 2.) JSoc Committees
 - 3.) JSoc activities and events
- Gender balance within JSoc committees
- External funding and organisations
- Who is funding UJS events and trips
- Where is JSoc funding coming from
- Which organisations have the biggest presence on campus
- Who is using JSoc houses/ spaces

How do you want it to happen?

An Internal Review Committee will be formed within 2 months of UJS Conference 2017. This Committee will be made up of current and former students, and experts in various cross-communal positions. The Committee will work with the President, as well as the Chief Executive and other stakeholders within UJS, to conduct a thorough and fair examination of the structures mentioned above and make recommendations on how to alleviate any inequalities.

Time Scale

A timetable will be published following the first meeting of the Internal Review Committee, and the review must be completed and published by UJS Conference 2018.

Transparency

This is the first internal review of this kind that UJS is arranging in current memory. Therefore we should set the highest standards of transparency within the process, in order to guarantee confidence, visibility and accessibility. Our recommendations are that:

- A page of the UJS website will be dedicated to the review, outlining the approach and being updated regularly.
- The President and/or IR Committee will write a quarterly blog outlining their progress, which should be widely published.
- The findings of the review will be published, and information that is not included in the final report must be accessible upon request from UJS members

Motion Title: UJ20: Prohibiting dating apps as a mechanism to campaign in elections

Proposer's name: Chana Bernstein

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconders name: Yonah Goldschmidt

Seconders J-Soc: Leeds

What's the idea?

1. Dating apps create a dangerous environment in which campaigners and candidates can be put in unsafe situations. This is regarding specifically using the apps for campaigning.
2. UJS should not be permitting candidates to put themselves or others in vulnerable or intimidating situations. Not everyone is comfortable with the use of dating apps to campaign to them. Therefore, to encourage inclusivity provide a level playing field, dating apps should not be used.
3. Dating apps are also a different level of privacy from social media, and have a very specific use. Facebook and other social media platforms can be used for a plethora of different reasons, one of which is campaigning, but dating apps are single purpose

How do you want it to happen?

- 1) No campaign should use dating apps as a platform to send messages to individuals about voting.
- 2) If a campaign does so, UJS will encourage disqualification of the member from running for any position be it for a J-Soc role or a national role (presidential election)