

# **UJS Conference 2018**

## **Motions**

## **Results**

## Campus

Motion Title: CA1 IHRA definition of antisemitism

Proposer's name: Emma Jacobs

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconder's name: Lauren Keiles

Seconder's J-Soc: Leeds



**Overwhelmingly,  
1 against  
5 abstain**

### **What's the idea?**

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism is used by the overwhelming majority of the Jewish community to define contemporary antisemitism. The adoption of this definition by UJS was also adopted overwhelmingly at UJS Conference in 2016.

Over the past year, Jewish people's self-definition of antisemitism has seen unprecedented attacks. Both inside and outside of student spaces, non-Jewish students have sought to block the IHRA definition. UJS must be clear and active in our response that anything other than the definition of antisemitism that we choose for ourselves is inadequate.

### **How do you want it to happen?**

- 1) UJS to reaffirm adoption of the IHRA definition.
- 2) UJS to actively campaign for Students Unions and Universities to adopt the IHRA definition, in collaboration with individual J-Socs.
- 3) Where appropriate, UJS should lobby other local, national or international bodies to adopt the IHRA definition.
- 4) Ensure that the IHRA definition of antisemitism is not used to shut down legitimate criticism of the Israeli government.
- 5) Adopt the position that the IHRA definition is not complete without all its examples.

Motion Title: CA3 Free Education

Proposer's name: Eden Ladley

Proposer's J-Soc: NUS LGBT+

Seconder's name: Sam Alston

Seconder's J-Soc: SOAS



**Narrowly**

### **What's the idea?**

1. That education is a public good and access to education is a fundamental human right,

enshrined in Protocol 1, Article 2 of the Human Rights Act (1998) which states that:

“No person shall be denied a right to an education.”

2. The Talmud expresses support for free, fair and accessible education on the principle that

taxation of the richest in the community is what should fund Jewish learning also a key

element of Jewish values and beliefs tzedakah advocates such a system.

3. The government is increasingly marketising higher education through further raises to tuition fees, increasing the political weight given to flawed surveys such as the NSS and using the language of “consumers” to talk about students.

### **How do you want it to happen?**

- 1) UJS should make the case for free education and demand that free, accessible, quality education, and decent wages, public services and benefits, are funded by:
  - a. Ending tax evasion and avoidance and cracking down on tax havens,
  - b. Imposing serious taxes on the incomes, inheritance and capital gains of the rich.
  - c. Taking the banks, and their wealth, under democratic control.
- 2) UJS shall use its position on the Board of Deputies to lobby for support from the Jewish community for free education. This could include but should not be restricted to submitting policy to the board for support of free education.
- 3) UJS shall conduct research and produce work on how the principle of how tzedakah and campaigning for free, fair and accessible education is key to Jewish values and the Jewish



community at large. UJS should post at least 2 social media posts or website blogs this year about free education.

- 4) UJS should campaign in favour of free education motions submitted on a national scale at NUS conferences.
- 5) UJS should oppose all efforts to further marketise higher education, including but not limited to fee increases.

Motion Title: CA4 Combating antisemitism in NUS

Proposer's name: Gabe Milne

Proposer's J-Soc: Sheffield

Seconder's name: Maya Sterrie

Seconder's J-Soc: Leeds



**Unanimously**

### **What's the idea?**

- There is a history of antisemitism within NUS with Jewish members of NEC receiving abuse for years due to their Jewish identity. Famously Luciana Berger, now an MP, was forced resign over this.
- The Home Affairs Select Committee report on Antisemitism in the UK, published in 2016, said the then NUS President's language "smacked of outright racism" after calling Birmingham University "a Zionist outpost".
- NUS have, to their credit, adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism.
- Antisemitism is still a problem in the student movement today, with an NUS NEC member resigning in September 2018 after comparing Israeli policies to those of the Nazis.
- NUS has a firm stance as an anti-racist movement, and also claims to have a 'zero-tolerance' to antisemitism, but the organisation has often failed to put their words into action.
- NUS' Code of Conduct is not fit for purpose for a 'zero-tolerance' stance on antisemitism, as it only covers full time staff or volunteers at NUS events. Therefore, if a non-paid elected representative of NUS posts an antisemitic statement online, which violates NUS' own definition of antisemitism, this is permitted under NUS code of conduct.
- For the NUS Code of Conduct to be fit for purpose, it is imperative NUS update their code of conduct to include the actions of NUS volunteers outside of NUS events.
- It is likely that if UJS had not in the past put significant pressure on NUS, antisemitism would not have been dealt with in a satisfactory manner. Such pressure includes advocating for the adoption of the IHRA definition at NUS conference in 2017. Before this, NUS had used the EUMC working definition since 2000.

### **How do you want it to happen?**

1. Mandate UJS to fight antisemitism within NUS and the wider student movement.



2. Mandate UJS to put pressure on NUS to update their Code of Conduct to include the actions of NUS volunteers outside of NUS events.
3. For UJS to continue to work with those in the student movement who stand with Jewish students against antisemitism.
4. For UJS to make a particular effort to reach out to groups who represent students facing other forms of racism, such as FOSIS, and work towards having a better and more constructive relationship with these groups.

Motion Title: CA5 Strengthening UJS' commitment to fighting hate speech on campus

Proposer's name: James Harris

Proposer's J-Soc: Birmingham

Seconder's name: Benjamin Freeman

Seconder's J-Soc: Manchester



**Unanimously**

### **What's the idea?**

On campus it is understood that there are many groups that can cause students to feel uneasy or uncomfortable. There are some groups though which directly threaten to physically harm innocent students and UJS should always ensure it works with the relevant organisations to ensure they are allowed no presence in campus life.

The NUS has set clear guidelines on what organisations should be no platformed and this allows for stronger mobilization against these abhorrent groups.

UJS should stand side by side with NUS in strongly enforcing this policy to ensure the continued physical wellbeing of students simply trying to attain an education.

Last year at conference a policy was passed which was far too broad in defining hate, stating that UJS should not be associated with organisations who "hold extremist beliefs, a far-right ideology, homophobic attitude are racist or discriminatory based on religious grounds". Loose language will not help us tackle the roots of hatred and could potentially lead to divisive partisanship if Labour were to be deemed 'racist' or the Conservatives were labelled 'far-right'.

### **How do you want it to happen?**

To ensure there are clear guidelines on what UJS defines as hateful or extremist organisations, UJS should repeal the overly broad item 1 of motion CA6 (2017) and use NUS's no platforming policy to dictate the organisations it defines as hateful. The policy includes the following organisations:

Al-Muhajiroun;

British National Party;

English Defence League;

Hizb-ut-Tahrir;

Muslim Public Affairs Committee.

National Action

UJS should work closely with NUS and continue to lead by example by not associating itself with these any of these extremist, hateful organisations.

UJS will renew its commitment to combating hate and continue its work in tandem with other organisations to ensure the future success of this policy

Motion title: CA6 Simplifying UJS Reimbursement Policy

Proposer's name: Joshua Samuel

**Passed to National  
Council.**

Proposer's J-Soc: Leicester

Seconder's name: Joshua Davies

Seconder's J-Soc: Leicester

### **Whats the idea?**

Currently UJS is unable and unwilling to directly reimburse external organisations which fund specific events on campus which support Jewish life and Israel engagement.

This is inherently problematic as not every J-Soc has its own bank account. This means that monies must travel through personal bank accounts and already financially stretched students have to pay out large sums before agonisingly waiting reimbursement.

UJS has consistently taken too long to reimburse both individuals and J-Soc's especially considering their financial situation. This desperately need to be improved as a matter of urgency.

With money travelling through personal accounts it is only a matter of time before a serious complaint of potential embezzlement takes place which would undermine both the integrity of the individual and all parties involved. UJS should move to act now instead of waiting for a serious issue to take place

### **How do you want it to happen?**

UJS and its partners will commit to reimbursing external organisations directly supplying that the appropriate J-Soc representative has given explicit permission for this to take place.

UJS must take supportive measures more accessible for those who require extra support in offsetting expenses such as seeking measures to speed up the reimbursement process.

UJS will commit to helping every J-Soc around the country setting up accounts where money can be held (understanding certain SU's have policies about external funding and accounts) to ensure no single individual should be forced to spend personal money.



UJS will support treasurers with personalized training in accordance to the size of their J-Soc. This will happen at the start of their term of office and could be via a webinar, a group training or a meeting/ phone call with the finance department of UJS.

**UJS and J-Socs**

Motion Title: UJ3 J-Socs to collect and donate sanitary products

Proposer's name: Sara Felberg

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconder's name: Emma Jacobs

Seconder's J-Soc: Leeds



**What's the idea?**

- Period poverty stops women getting an education.
- It affects women here in the U.K. & N. Ireland.
- The idea is to have sanitary product collection points in all student centres that UJS owns.

**How do you want it to happen?**

1. UJS owned and Hillel House, or other Jewish centres of Student life will be offered permanent sanitary product collection points.
2. Each collection point will have a designated 'officer': the social action officer on J-Soc where appropriate or another committee member if not.
3. They will be in contact with charity Bloody Good Period who will support the people running the collection points.
4. All sanitary products will be donated to Bloody Good Period with information by the donation point for those who may be affected by period poverty.

Motion Title: UJ5 Peer-led liberation groups

Proposer's name: Emma Jacobs

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconder's name: Sally Patterson

Seconder's J-Soc: Bristol



**Unanimously**

### **What's the idea?**

UJS' liberation networks go only some way to empower the voices of marginalised peoples and champion the fight for equality. It is inappropriate for those who do not define in to liberation groups to be leading campaigns and activities, and therefore it is imperative that these networks are peer-led, in line with UJS' core values. The UJS Staff should work to facilitate the realisation of these projects

### **How do you want it to happen?**

1. Move the liberation networks to a peer-led structure
2. Ensure that the strategy and direction of UJS Liberation Conference is in consultation with students who define in the relevant liberation group
3. UJS should provide these peer-led liberation groups with a healthy budget to run events on a national and local scale.
4. UJS should include Jews of Colour in its liberation work, and create a group for them under the liberation umbrella. Jews of Colour should be defined as Jews who are non-white or of a non-European background. Jews who define as non-white purely on the basis of being Jewish should not be included in this liberation group.
5. UJS should include Jews who define as having grown up poor or working-class in its liberation work, and create a group for them under the liberation umbrella.

Motion Title: UJ6 Two State Solution Policy

Proposer's name: Natalie Deller

Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconder's name: Esther Offenberg

Seconder's J-Soc: Birmingham



**Overwhelmingly,  
all but 2 voted in favour**

### **What's the idea?**

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is still on-going over 70 years after the establishment of the State of Israel and is showing no signs of ending.

- It is of utmost importance that peace is achieved between Israel and its neighbours, including the Palestinians.
- The Jewish People have an inalienable right to national self-determination in their historic homeland, which has been exercised in the thriving existence of the State of Israel.
- Palestinian People have an inalienable right to national self-determination.
- The State of Israel must be both Jewish and democratic.
- The only possibility for the State of Israel to remain both a democracy and to uphold its Jewish character, and to finally achieve a lasting and stable peace - for which we all collectively yearn for - is a two State solution in which a sovereign Palestinian state exists alongside the State of Israel.
- This solution, however, is only achievable through a process of negotiation and reconciliation, not through unilateral steps.
- A majority of Jewish Students, as well as a majority of Jews around the world, support the two State Solution as the only resolve to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

### **How do you want it to happen?**

1. UJS to continue to advocate for a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
2. UJS to continue to work on the ground with groups in Israel and the Palestinian Territories which support the two-state solution on trips.
3. UJS to reaffirm its opposition to BDS.
4. UJS continue to work with organisations in the UK advocating for a two state solution. E.g bringing them to J-Socs.

Motion Title: UJ7 Representation of Sephardi/Mizrahi Jewish Traditions at UJS

Proposer's name: Natalia Shomerus and Marta Musolino

Proposer's J-Soc: Cambridge and Warwick

Seconder's name: Lauren Keiles and Raquel Cohanim

Seconder's J-Soc: Leeds and Aberdeen



**Unanimously**

### **What's the idea?**

Sephardi Jews are the oldest Jewish community in the UK and Bevis Marks is the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the UK

The need for better representation of Sephardi/Mizrahi culture already led to a focus group in 2017

At important events such as the UJS Summit 2018 there was no Sephardi/Mizrahi service, prayer or tune, although even the Senior Rabbi of the S&P Sephardi Community of the UK was present

Furthermore, UJS does not discuss the inequalities that we face both in the Jewish community and in wider society. It is vital to the health of UJS' cross-communal and representative values that this changes

### **How do you want it to happen?**

1. Make sure Sephardi/Mizrahi tunes and prayers are included in services at UJS events. If it's an event with more than one service, there can be an Ashkenazi and a Sephardi/Mizrahi service, either in alteration or simultaneously
2. Wherever possible, include one Sephardi dish at Shabbat meals.
3. Buy non-Ashkenazi siddurim such as Birkat Shelomo or the "Daily and occasional prayers" used by S&P in London
4. Encourage J-Socs to invite Sephardi/Mizrahi speakers, make services and events inclusive of Sephardi/Mizrahi traditions, and help J-Socs run events on Sephardi/Mizrahi traditions
5. Make sure that at UJS events Birkat Hamazon is either sung with an Ashkenazi and a Sephardi/Mizrahi tune in alternation, or Bendigamos added
6. Run events on Sephardi/Mizrahi cultures, for example music, films, clothing and food/history/teachings and halakha
7. Commemorate the expulsion of Spanish Jewry and of Jews from Arab Countries
8. Work the Sephardi and Mizrahi groups, such as Spanish and Portuguese synagogues, to make their spaces friendly and accessible to students
9. Include Sephardi and Mizrahi Students in UJS Liberation Networks

Motion Title: UJ14 Recognise the value of and uphold the UJS Birthright trips

Proposer's name: Benjamin Freeman

Proposer's J-Soc: Manchester

Seconder's name: Sabrina Verby

Seconder's J-Soc: Brighton and Sussex



**Clearly**

### **What's the idea?**

1. Birthright trips offer students the opportunity to engage with their Jewish identity in a way that few programs could ever do. It is fundamentally an outreach program; transcending denominational, class, economic status, and gender boundaries.
2. For many students, Birthright is their first time visiting Israel, and for others, Israel is a country they visited many times before, but never in an educational capacity. The program therefore offers a unique opportunity for students to investigate the importance of Israel to their Jewish identity.
3. Given that Zionism is a factor in the vast majority of Jewish Students' identities, students who have not previously been able to should be given the opportunity to experience Israel. The value of birthright must be recognized.

### **How do you want it to happen?**

1. UJS shall commit to continue offering Birthright trips for Jewish students of all backgrounds from across the UK.
2. UJS shall recognise the importance of Birthright trips in allowing Jewish students to explore their identity.

Motion Title: UJ16 UJS commitment to Israel Advocacy



Proposer's name: Zak Wagman

Proposer's J-Soc: Warwick

Seconder's name: Ben Freeman

Seconder's J-Soc: Manchester

**Clearly**

### **What's the idea?**

In 2018, UJS' Former President publicly stated that the organisation had 'an unwavering commitment to Israel activism.'

In 2015, UJS conference passed motion CA10, committing the organisation to combat BDS in all its forms.

UJS has for years consistently launched and supported pro-Israel campaigns, including the recurring 'Bridges not Boycotts' campaign which combats 'Israeli Apartheid Week.'

UJS has in effect consistently supported pro-Israel advocacy, and this should be reflected by formal policy passed by conference

### **How do you want it to happen?**

1. To commit UJS' Campaigns Staff and the UJS National Council to continue to devote their time and resources to support pro-Israel advocacy led by individual students, Jewish Societies and Israel Societies.
2. To ensure that UJS Campaign Staff continue to promote and create national pro-Israel campaigns on campus.
3. To ensure that the National Council endorse and partner with appropriate and legitimate organisations who pursue Israel advocacy work on campus for joint-campaigns and educational programming.

Motion Title: CO2 Gendered Hate Crime

Proposer's name: Emma Jacobs



Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconder's name: Dalia Landau

Seconder's J-Soc: Leeds

**Unanimously**

**What's the idea?**

Hate speech, such as antisemitism, islamophobia and other forms of racism are statistically more likely to be received by women and non-binary individuals. Statistically, women are more likely to receive online abuse than men for making the exact same comments. It is clear that there is a link between all forms of hatred and hate speech, and to this effect, it is important the UJS targets different hatreds with different tactics

**How do you want it to happen?**

1. UJS to run a social media campaign on gendered antisemitism in conjunction with CST and other relevant group.
2. UJS to recognise and speak out against the specific hatred against Jewish women and non-binary individuals

Motion Title: CO3 UJS Block at Pride

Proposer's name: Emma Jacobs



Proposer's J-Soc: Leeds

Seconder's name: Jess Baker

Seconder's J-Soc: Leeds

**Unanimously**

**What's the idea?**

As a cross-communal organisation, it is important that UJS celebrates LGBT+ culture and demonstrates publically its support for students from marginalised identities. This commitment to allyship and solidarity is shown throughout the year through the liberation network/ conference and with Keshet training at Summit.

Pride is one of the most prominent ways in which UJS can celebrate LGBT+ identity and culture, and as a prominent voice in the Jewish community, it is imperative that UJS has a visible presence.

**How do you want it to happen?**

UJS should participate and organise within the Keshet bloc for London Pride.

1. We should be visible by getting a UJS rainbow flag (or similar merch) made.
2. Wherever possible, UJS should participate in other pride marches nationally

Motion Title: CO4 Stop the Stigma – Men's mental health

Proposer's name: Nathan Boroda



Proposer's J-Soc: Warwick

Secunder's name: Noah Libson

Secunder's J-Soc: Goldsmith's

**Overwhelmingly**

### **What's the idea?**

It is clear that poor mental health, linked to body image and peer pressure, disproportionately affects young men. Statistically, suicide is the biggest killer of men under the age of 35. UJS does fantastic work on combatting poor mental health, but is yet to recognise its unique and devastating impact on men. Through targeted action, UJS must tailor its campaigns and lobbying of services to address these issues.

### **How do you want it to happen?**

1. UJS should run a specific social media campaign on mens' mental health
2. UJS, when lobbying services or service providers, must specifically address the unique issues that men face
3. UJS should provide education on the specific issues that men face.

Motion Title: CO5 Affirming UJS's commitment to Israel and a democratic and Jewish state by supporting democratic civil society organisations in Israel

Proposer's name: Noah Libson



Proposer's J-Soc: Goldsmiths

Seconder's name: Jess Baker

Seconder's J-Soc: Leeds

**Overwhelmingly**

### What's the idea?

1. UJS represents a proud Zionist voice, one which supports Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.
2. As such, we have the responsibility of defending and protecting Israel when it is slandered, but also ensuring that civil society organisations such as Breaking the Silence, Yesh Din and B'Tselem can continue to be part of and uphold Israeli democracy.
3. The functioning of these organisations, which service checks and balances on a democratic state are part and parcel of a healthy democracy. They ensure that the government maintains democratic principles such as equality and freedom of expression - principles laid out in the Declaration of Independence as essential components of the Jewish and democratic state of Israel.
4. These organisations are threatened by anti-democratic policies proposed to the Knesset and an increasingly hostile and shrinking democratic space, where those who are supposed to be safeguarding these principles of democracy - members of the Knesset - often publicly express their discriminatory and anti-democratic views and agenda, and speak against these organisations.

### How do you want it to happen?

1. These organisations are vital to the continuation of a healthy Israeli democracy. As such, UJS must actively support the existence of these organisations.
2. UJS must reach out to these organisations so that they have a channel to educate British students.
3. This includes programming meetings or activities with these organisations on UJS trips to Israel and doing events with them when representatives are in the UK. Engagement with these organisations is key to understanding how best to support Israeli democracy and legitimate criticism of Israel on campus'

Motion Title: CO6 Antisemitism in the Labour Party

Proposer's name: Gabe Milne

Proposer's J-Soc: Sheffield



Secunder's name: Nathan Boroda

Secunder's J-Soc: Warwick

**Overwhelmingly**

### **What's the idea?**

The Labour Party has failed to adequately deal with antisemitism within its own ranks.

The Jewish community held an unprecedented rally against antisemitism in the Labour Party in March 2018.

Some of Labour's own MPs have called the party "institutionally racist".

The Labour Party have still failed to fully implement the reasonable requests made by the Jewish Leadership Council and the Board of Deputies in Spring 2018.

Labour MP Chris Williamson committed a veiled attack on Sheffield J-Soc calling them "opponents of common sense socialism" and "haters" after speaking out against his invitation by Sheffield Labour Students.

### **How do you want it to happen?**

1. Mandate UJS to condemn antisemitism in the Labour Party.
2. For UJS to condemn Chris Williamson for his disgusting attack on Sheffield J-Soc.
3. For UJS to continue working with the Jewish Labour Movement, Labour Students, and other allies in the Labour Party who have stood up against antisemitism.
4. For UJS to continue delivering antisemitism training alongside JLM and Labour Students at university Labour Clubs.
5. For UJS to support the efforts of the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council to have their Spring 2018 demands met

Motion Title: CO7 A Brexit Deal that works for Students

Proposer's name: Gabe Milne

Proposer's J-Soc: Sheffield



Secunder's name: Sally Patterson and Nathan Boroda

Secunder's J-Soc: Bristol and Warwick

**Overwhelmingly**

### **Whats the idea?**

- 1) On 23rd June 2016, the referendum on EU Membership was narrowly won by the Leave Campaign, however young people, students and the Jewish Community overwhelmingly voted Remain.
- 2) Since the EU referendum result, a number of promises which were made by the official Leave Campaign (members of which have been very senior members of Government during the last two years), have at best been made to have seemed foolish, or at worst outright lies.
- 3) Hate crime increased as a result of the EU referendum and was one of reasons for an increase in antisemitism in 2016 according to CST.
- 4) HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services has warned of a spike in hate crime around the date of the UK's possible exit of the European Union.
- 5) UJS has a proud history of fighting fascism and racism and defending the Jewish community from the likes of Steve Bannon and Victor Orban - men with clear connections with and lauded by Leave campaigners.
- 6) Prime Minister Theresa May has brought back a deal to Parliament that includes removing support for EU students to study in the UK and the support given to UK students to study in Europe. The deal will also cost £100 billion a year to the UK's economy according to Britain's longest established independent research institute.
- 7) Therefore, if the deal is voted down in Parliament on the 11th December, UJS should stand with Jewish students studying across the EU and the UK, join the fight against the far right and support a People's Vote on the Brexit Deal.

### **How do you want it to happen?**

1. To support efforts by youth and student groups including, but not exclusive to, NUS to lobby Members of Parliament for a public vote on Brexit.
2. To campaign for the rights of EU students in the UK and UK students studying in Europe.
3. To encourage Jewish community voices to support a public vote on Brexit.

### **Appendix:**

#### **Policy Lapse:**

#### **Policy from 2015 successfully challenged:**

**Motion Title: CO4: Campaigning for mental health awareness**

Proposer: Louise Cohen

Secunder: Daisy Bogod

What's the idea?

For UJS to commit to mental health awareness and education

How do you want it to happen?

1. To commit to running a mental health campaign
2. Educate students on what to say and what not to say to a person with a mental illness.
3. Educate students on key signs that a friend could have a mental illness.
4. To create an open space on campus' to ensure that mental health can be spoken about.
5. For individual J-Socs to be able to run mental health events such as tea afternoons or yoga sessions especially around exam and coursework deadline times.

**Motion Title: JC2: Support smaller J-Socs**

Proposer: James Wilder

Secunder Jonathan Shapiro

What's the idea?

UJS should actively promote the development of smaller J-Socs by providing more monetary input to help them our further.

How do you want it to happen?

1. Provide more money for smaller J-Socs for the many events that are put on by hardworking committees. Without this, the events arranged are very limited in what can be achieved with the budgets they have.
2. Further encourage smaller J-Socs to do inter-J-Soc or reginal events so the smaller J-Socs can bring their members together. This would give them more potential to do different events and activities that they may otherwise be unable to, either due to lack of money or not having enough people.