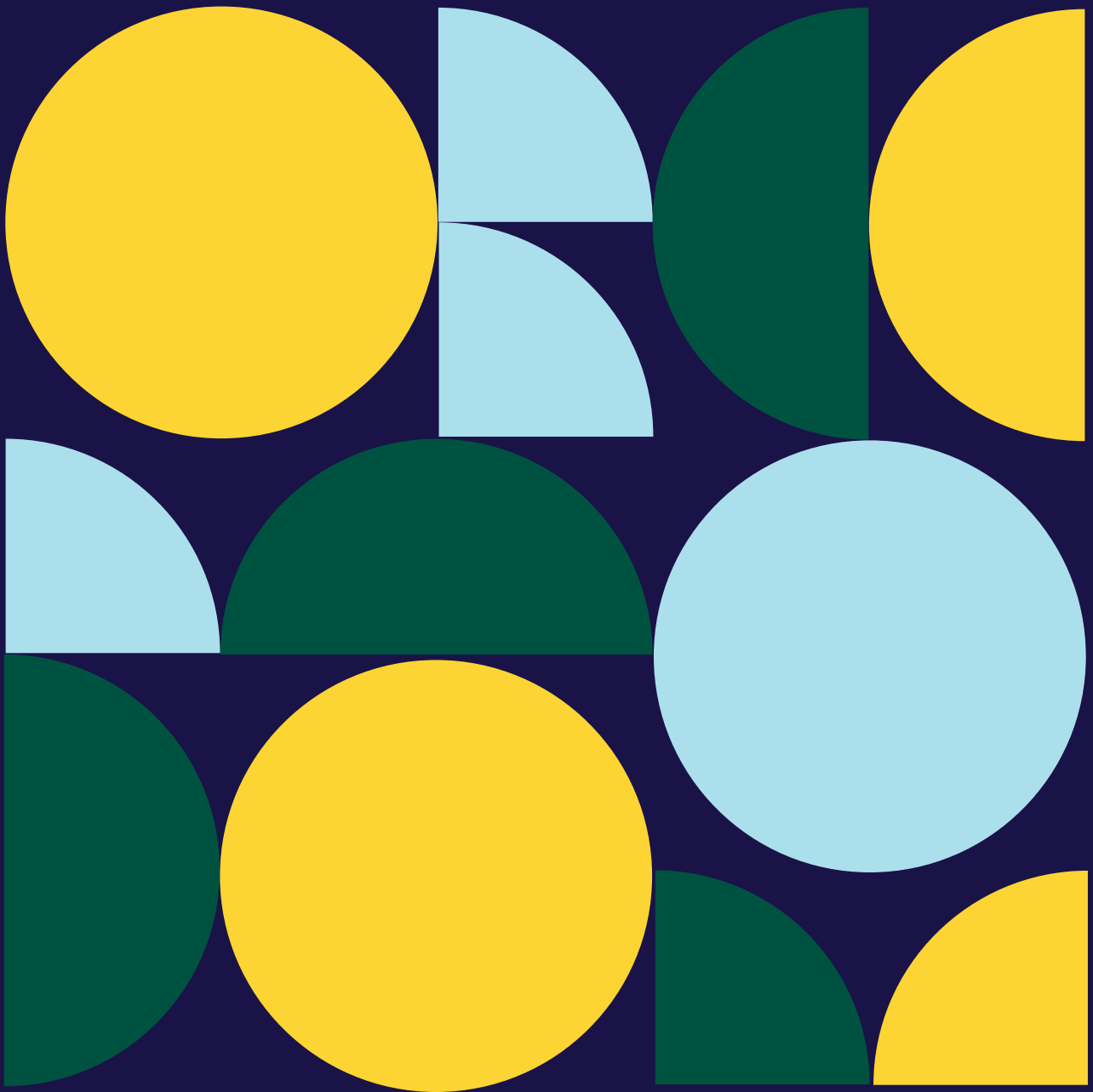




AMM

Bristol SU's Guide to Annual
Members Meeting

The **Annual Members Meeting** (AMM) is Bristol
SU's biggest democratic event!

This is the perfect opportunity to have your say
on SU policy.

It's for each and every student, so don't miss out!

AMM is an important event, but we recognise that
its structure and jargon can be quite complicated.

So, here is a simple guide explaining AMM and
what to expect now that you are here.



Meeting Agenda

- Introduction to Student Council
- Officer Updates

BREAK

- Motion Renewal
- Motion 1 - Sanctuary Scholars
- Motion 2 - Climate Strikes
- Motion 3 - Rent Strikes
- Motion 4 - Arms

BREAK

- Motions
- Motion 1 - Prayer spaces
- Motion 2 - Subgroups
- Motion 3 - Gender justice
- Motion 4 - Plant based
- AOB

Ask the Officers



AMM is your chance to find out if officers have implemented their manifestos and plans for change and to question their responses to reactive challenges this year.

Have their intentions created results? Are there other changes you would like to have seen?



Izzy Russell: Student Living Officer

This role represents you in all areas related to living in Bristol, including your accommodation, health and wellbeing, finance, and interaction with the local community. As part of this, this Officer will work to make sure that you have access to good advice in these areas and are represented to student support services.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/student-living

Responsibilities include:

- Working for the SU and university buildings (including housing) to be sustainable and accessible.
- Fighting for student rights.
- Making sure that students' interests in health and well-being are represented within the University support services.
- Supporting and developing the Sustainability Network, Fundraising and Volunteering Network, Wellbeing Network, and other Networks as appropriate.

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

“Do you have an example of when you have fought for student rights, especially in terms of accommodation?”





Adam Michael: Union Affairs Officer

This Officer represents you and your interaction with the SU. This involves making sure that our communication and services are effective, accessible, and relevant for everyone. This officer also works to represent the interests of all students to university executive management.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/union-affairs

Responsibilities include:

- Looking after democracy and representation in Bristol SU.
- Making sure that students are at the heart of Union decision-making.
- Responsible for how students interact with the Union, including effective communication channels and oversight for Union services such as those provided for societies, and volunteering & fundraising (RAG).
- Helping to chair and convene the SU Board of Trustees Finance, Risk and Governance Committee.
- Working to explore the development of student societies.

Example of what you could ask them at AMM:

“What have you done this year to increase the informal way SU officers receive feedback?”





Saranya Thambirajah: Equality, Liberation, and Access Officer

So that everyone is represented at our SU and Uni, this Officer works to make sure that all students, particularly underrepresented or marginalised groups, are represented on issues related to their experience at the University. This is so that these interests can then be addressed in the development of Union and University policies.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**: bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/equality-liberation-and-access

Responsibilities include:

- Working to ensure that Bristol is an inclusive, safe, and accessible university for all students.
- Giving a platform to the voices of students from marginalized backgrounds and identities.
- Working with networks and societies to centre student experiences in the SU and the university. For example, supporting and developing Women's, Black Students, BAME, LGBT+, Trans, Disabled Students, Multifaith, and Widening Participation Networks.
- Supporting students on issues relating to the Bristol SU Equality Policy and overseeing Bristol SU's equality objectives.
- Working with the Sport and Student Development and Union Affairs Officers to support campaigns, activities, and research into diverse student experiences to ensure any barriers to participation are removed.

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

"What work have you done to champion the voice of students from marginalized backgrounds? Have they felt heard as a result?"





Lucy Matthews: Sport and Student Development Officer

It is important to develop the opportunities that you and your peers have, to make sure that you can engage in a variety of sports. For this reason, this Officer liaises with the University Centre for Sport, Exercise, and Health and oversee the organisation and promotion of sports clubs, the varsity series and sports participation activities.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**: bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/sport-and-student-development

Responsibilities include:

- Representing sports societies and student groups and their members who are represented throughout the university community, in the SU, and beyond.
- Ensuring that students have access to recreational sporting opportunities.
- Representing the interests of students on matters of personal development.
- Promoting the importance of co-curricular participation and skills development.
- Working with the Equality, Liberation and Access Officer and relevant Chairs of Networks to ensure that the Union's Equality Policy is upheld in all Member-led sporting activities and to ensure any barriers to participation are alleviated.

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

“Have you created any sporting opportunities for individuals that normally face participation barriers? Did it work and have they continued to participate in activities they wouldn't have before?”





Nicole Antoine: Undergraduate Education Officer

This Officer represents your learning and teaching experiences if you are an undergraduate student. They will also make sure that you receive sufficient academic and welfare-related support. As well as this, they will lead and empower undergraduate Course and Faculty Reps so that their own interests are represented within the University Student Services. Check out the full officer description [here](#).

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/undergraduate-education

Responsibilities include:

- Representing undergraduate students on academic and welfare matters
- Ensuring that undergraduate students are represented at every level of Bristol SU and the University.
- Leading and empowering undergraduate academic elected representatives (Course and Faculty Reps).
- Working with the Postgraduate Education Officer to represent, empower and champion academic societies.
- Supporting and developing the Education Network and other Networks as appropriate.

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

“How have you increased student awareness of important academic advice that is available to them?”





Lu Macey: Postgraduate Education Officer

This Officer works to represent you, if you are a postgraduate student, to the Uni and SU - especially in terms of research academic and welfare matters. This officer will make sure that all postgraduate students are represented at every level of the SU and university.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/postgraduate-education

Key responsibilities:

- Representing postgraduate taught and research students on academic and welfare matters
- Ensuring postgraduate students are represented at every level of the SU and university.
- Supporting the postgraduate student network to offer a variety of social environments to postgraduate students
- Helping to shape and inform regulations for Postgraduates within the university
- Shaping a more inclusive across the SU for postgraduate students

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

“Have you conducted research into how the cost-of-living crisis affects Post Graduate Research? If so, what did you find and what will you be doing to help?”



How does AMM actually work?



AMM is the perfect opportunity to get your voice heard directly and help set the agenda of the SU. You have the power to improve your university experience and vote on important SU policy!

But, as well as looking towards the future, this space will also offer you the chance to reflect and hold your current Full-time Officers to account.

AMM is also an opportunity to renew policy that is about to expire. The following policies are being renewed:

- Support Student Rent Strikes
- Let's Disarm Bristol! Lobby the University to End Ties with Arms Trade Companies
- Sanctuary Scholarship Legal Fund
- Support the Student Climate Strikes

Any items, or 'motions', that pass will become active SU policy for 3 years!



What happened in the run-up to AMM?



In weeks preceeding the meeting, a window opens for idea submissions , or '**motions**', and these will get debated between you and your peers at the meeting.

After this, an amendments window was open until, which allows other students to change the actions (of a motion) if you didn't agree with them, or if you felt the wording was not quite right. You will now get a chance to vote on these amendments.

Here are the motions that you were able to amend this year:

- Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Students & Campaigning for Gender Justice
- New and Improved Prayer Room for Muslims on Campus
- A Plant-Based Students' Union
- Stopping Mandatory Sub-Group Subsidisation in Student Groups

AMM is your student, democratic space. No matter who you are, if you are a Bristol student, you get to have your say about what the SU cares about!



What is a motion?

Sadly, we're not referring to the nightclub on this occasion.

At AMM, a motion is the formatted way that a student's idea comes to us. It will include a background explaining why they are sending it, a purpose to describe its intent, and any actions that give clear guidance on how we can enact the idea. The motion is then sent to Democratic Standards to be approved for AMM!

At the meeting, these actions will be displayed on a PowerPoint for each motion that is discussed.

While we are here, you may find it useful to check out the **following terms**:

- **Policy** – when a motion is passed by students, it becomes policy. This is in place for 3 years at the Students Union and can be renewed at the Annual Members Meeting.
- **Amendment** – a suggestion from another student to a student's motion, which can “amend” what exactly the motion may enact.
- **Chair** – the person at the front leading the meeting.
- **Democracy Desk** – a group of elected students, Democratic Standards Committee, who you can ask procedural questions to any time.



How is the meeting structured?



Firstly those who introduced the motion ideas get to speak to AMM attendees to propose and convince others to pass the motion.

Then the Chair will allow someone to speak against the motion if they don't agree with it.

If you didn't propose it, you will be able to ask any questions you have about the motion to its proposer, but mainly just to further clarify the idea – not to deliver an opposition speech against it! This is then rinsed and repeated until we need to hold a vote!

There might be a chance that the Chair thinks there needs to be another round of arguments. This is because sometimes an idea might be quite complex, so they want to make sure it's heard fairly.



Breaking a motion into parts

When you're looking at the Actions displayed on the PowerPoint, you might notice some things that you want to happen – but not every action that is listed. If so, you can speak to the **Democracy Desk** before the vote has started, and ask for a motion to be broken into parts. The Chair will give you a minute before they move to a vote to give you time to speak to the Democracy Desk.

Here's an example:

The Motion: *“A Warmer University”*

The Actions:

- **Action 1:** To give everyone a free hat so they're warm in the winter
- **Action 2:** Make sure heating is on in all student study spaces during the day
- **Action 3:** To ensure university halls remained heated

You might think that two of the actions make sense but think **Action 1** is *a bit silly*.

So, you can approach the Democracy Desk so that everyone votes on each Action, not all of them grouped.



Why it is important to debate?

Imagine if the SU suddenly decided it was against their practice to ever support the football or to never host events past the month of March. It would feel pretty unfair, right?

You can have your say and change this decision through debate – which is designed as a chance to hear from everyone. This way, we can carry on being a Union for all Students!

Even if a motion that is a ‘good thing’ is proposed in the meeting, it may take SU time away from other valuable things. So, the debate is a great opportunity to establish current SU priorities.



Will there be a referendum?

If something is seriously contentious, and you think that it needs even more students to help make a change, then might you propose it goes to Referendum. This means you have to:

1. Have this voted on by Council/AMM attendees
2. Have a question agreed with Democratic Standards Committee
3. The question must be in a “Yes/No” binary

Hopefully, this handy guide has answered some of your questions about AMM and what to expect. But it's a confusing topic!

If you ever have any further questions or would like to find out some extra info that hasn't been included, then send an email over to

bristolsu-democracy@bristol.ac.uk



Feb 2022 AMM Motions



Stopping Mandatory Sub-Group Subsidisation in Student Groups

Speaker: James Forster

A Plant Based Students' Union

Speaker: Jesse Prince

New and Improved Prayer Room for Muslims on Campus

Speaker: Dilara Eren

Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Students & Campaigning for Gender Justice

Speaker: Saranya Thambirajah



Stopping Mandatory Sub-Group Subsidisation in Student Groups

Proposer: James Forster

Seconder: James Short

Background

1. Currently, many Student Groups subsidise some of their Sub-Groups using other Sub-Groups, especially subsidising upper Sub-Groups using lower Sub-Groups, often without telling the lower Sub-Groups and without their permission.
2. This is against the equality, diversity, and inclusion principles of the Bristol SU. Specifically this is unfair toward the Sub-Groups' members unknowingly or unwillingly subsidising other Sub-Groups.
3. It is unfair to make people in lower Sub-Groups pay more than they have to in order to join a club simply because they are joining a lower Sub-Group.
4. This is not to say we shouldn't support students joining Student Groups, however, it shouldn't come at the mandatory expense of other members.
5. The Activity Hardship fund exists for this purpose, however if a Student Group wishes to add additional support it could still do so via non-mandatory donations, which this motion does not oppose.

Purpose

1. To stop mandatory sub-group subsidisation in Student Groups.

Action

1. Update Byelaw 9 to add the following clause between 19. and 20. under the section "Memberships, Data & Fees":

"Affiliated Student Groups may not subsidise Sub-Groups by using other Sub-Groups' membership fees."



A Plant Based Students' Union

Proposer: Jesse Prince

Seconded: Isobel Russell

Background

1. In 2019, our university was the first in the UK to declare a climate emergency[1]. In 2020, we cut all investments in fossil fuels. Divesting from animal agriculture is the next logical step. It's responsible for at least 18% of global emissions[2] and limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require drastic carbon dioxide removal (CDR) from the atmosphere. The most effective route for this in the UK is the restoration of our native forests[3].
2. Should we transition to plant-based farming, the UK could free up 51% of its land for rewilding and carbon drawdown[4]. As such, the University of Stirling has recently passed an SU motion to go 100% plant-based by 2025 in response to the climate crisis[5].
3. A similar transition at Bristol is something our student union could be really proud of. Demonstrating this is our multiple endorsements from both vegan and non-vegan groups conscious of the climate emergency and enthusiastic to act. Plant Based Treaty, a national grassroots campaign working with councils to become more sustainable, have stated their support for our motion: *'Plant Based Treaty is fully supportive of the student climate leaders who understand the alignment of climate science and ethics in their bold demands for a fully plant-based university.'*

Purpose

1. Undeniably, the subsidy schemes in the UK favour animal products, as does the private/fast food sector. This is why meat and dairy-based partnerships are much more convenient and popular.
2. However, universities educate the leaders of our future and are the sites where much of our research and understanding of the climate crisis emerges. Some of the most compelling research on agriculture and climate comes from universities, including Oxford[1] and Harvard[2]. The literature is showing that, regardless of production method, plant-based agriculture is inherently less resource-intensive than animal agriculture. This highlights the importance of institutional divestment in mitigating climate disaster.



3. Plant-based catering is a necessary step in the development of a more sustainable food system. It can be achieved without detriment to any particular persons and can be nutritionally sound and inclusive of all faiths and religions.

4. The Student's Union is responsible for setting an example. Its principles and actions can inspire students to think critically and act more in alignment with their values on environmental justice. This motion is an opportunity to show students that, in an era of climate anxiety, young people can actively help to create a more sustainable future for themselves and their community.



Action

1. For the Students' Union to officially endorse the Plant Based Universities Campaign, and for SU Officers to lobby internally for university-wide affordable, fully plant-based food at UoB.
2. For the Students' Union to aim for 100% plant-based catering as far as is practically and financially possible. This will first manifest through the improvement and expansion of plant-based options at union-run and union-catered events, with the target of 50% plant-based and 100% meat-free by the 2025-26 academic year.
3. For the Students' Union to explore creating a sustainability accreditation and grant by 2025 for student groups that commit to offering 100% plant-based food at their events.
4. For the Students' Union to lobby for the on-campus vending machines to go 50% plant-based by 2025 and 100% plant-based by 2027.



Sources

[1]Bristol becomes first UK university to declare climate emergency - Bristol Live (bristolpost.co.uk)

[1] <https://www.fao.org/3/a0701e/a0701e.pdf>

[1]<https://animal.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/Eating-Away-at-Climate-Change-with-Negative-Emissions--Harwatt-Hayek.pdf>

[1]Eating-Away-at-Climate-Change-with-Negative-Emissions--Harwatt-Hayek.pdf ([harvard.edu](https://animal.law.harvard.edu))

[1]University of Stirling To Go 100% Plant-Based In UK First (plantbasednews.org)

[1]New estimates of the environmental cost of food | University of Oxford

[1] Eating-Away-at-Climate-Change-with-Negative-Emissions--Harwatt-Hayek.pdf ([harvard.edu](https://animal.law.harvard.edu))



New and Improved Prayer Room for Muslims on Campus

Proposer: Dilara Eren

Seconder: Adam Azrai bin Mohammad Uzir Michael

Background

1. Prayer is an obligatory action for ALL Muslims. There are 5 prayer times every day, which means that Muslim students require an accessible prayer space multiple times each day.
2. There are 600+ Muslim students who actively engage with prayer activities at the very least (not formally assessed, an underestimate).
3. Currently, there are two prayer spaces available for use. However, these spaces do not meet the needs of Muslim students, mainly regarding capacity.
4. Woodland Road Prayer room is only catering 5-10 people at one given time. Senate House Prayer Room, although slightly larger capacity (~30), is still not big enough. It also has restricted timing access (it is open accordingly to Senate House's opening days and times), not private (subject to noise and disruption), and is unsafe (an incident occurred at the beginning of the academic year whereby the ablution facility was desecrated with urine).
5. Jummah (Friday prayer) is an obligatory prayer for men (although women are encouraged to join) and is very time-sensitive; meaning that Jummah must be done at a certain time in the afternoon.
6. This may have clashes with lectures/academic teaching sessions. Since there is no mosque in the immediate vicinity of the University, this provision is essential in ensuring that Muslim students can attend and perform this prayer.
7. Jummah is currently held at the Carpenter room because the current prayer rooms are very small. This is booked by ISoc under regular room bookings.
8. However there has been instances in which the Carpenter room is unavailable due to events such as graduation which may go on for weeks at a time.
9. In these instances, a smaller space, or no space at all would be allocated for Jummah.



10.To adjust to these changes, men are given priority to attend Jummah at a limited capacity, given that it is obligatory for them, or Jummah is cancelled entirely. This limits the accessibility for Muslim students to engage in their worship.

11.For context regarding the importance of Jummah, the following details the severity of it: The Prophet (ﷺ) said: He who leaves the Friday prayer (continuously) for three Friday on account of slackness, Allah will print a stamp on his heart. (SunanAbi Dawud 1052).

12.When the Carpenter Room is available, there are still some major problems.

13.Firstly, it is far out from campus, meaning that students may need to compromise on teaching (or compromise on their prayer) if their timetable is packed.

14.Secondly, recently we have had capacity issues where many people have had to pray and listen to the Friday sermon by the corridors due to lack of space. This is morally not acceptable.

15.Additionally, this means that often men end up praying behind women (which is prohibited in Islam and invalidates their prayer). To overcome this issue, we temporarily have been creating 2 prayer sessions which is inconvenient and frowned upon.



Purpose

1.Our purpose of this motion is to promote the welfare of Muslim Students in the University of Bristol by campaigning for a prayer space that has adequate capacity, safety, accessibility and convenience to ensure that they flourish in their worship.

2.This motion will also advance the education of Bristol students because they will no longer have to pick and choose between prayer and teaching, creating a positive experience for them.

3.This space, if sufficiently large and accommodating, can also better support the personal development of Muslim students as other relevant activities could also be held in the same space e.g., iftars (breaking fast meals), Qur'an and discussion circles.

4.Lastly, it will ensure Bristol SU is an effective representative channel for its members by improving the overall experience of Muslim students as a liberation group by supporting their needs and causes.



Action

1. Bristol SU to fully support the efforts of University of Bristol Islamic Society to obtain a larger prayer room that meets the needs of Muslim students in the University to practice their faith; including supporting gathering accurate statistics in research and lobbying.
2. Bristol SU Officers to lobby the University for CCTV surveillance in the vicinity of the Senate House prayer rooms to prevent the reoccurrence of desecrating acts.



Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Students & Campaigning for Gender Justice

Proposer: Saranya Thambirajah

Seconder: Isobel Russell

Background

1. Transgender people in the UK face constant discrimination, marginalisation and material disadvantage, reinforced by the media and the government placing them at the centre of a vicious culture war.
2. According to Stonewall's LGBT in Britain Report (2018) 41% of trans people have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their identity, 48% don't feel comfortable using public toilets due to fear and 70% experienced transphobia when accessing healthcare.
3. 36% of trans students at university have faced discrimination from university staff due to their identity.
4. Only 47% of trans people feel able to be open about their gender identity to their family, with 51% hiding their identity at work for fear of discrimination.
5. The current government's blocking of the Gender Recognition Act in Scotland represents a further regression in the rights of trans people and signifies an uphill battle to stop their marginalisation.
6. Transgender people in the UK have very limited access to appropriate gender affirming healthcare, greatly impacting on their quality of life and ability to live openly according to their identities.
7. The SU does not currently have active policy to support trans students in the issues that are specific to their community.
8. Trans students at Bristol have been campaigning for better support, most notably in relation to healthcare, for many years with requests for SU support often coming through the Trans Network, LGBT+ Network and LGBTQ centred student groups.
9. The Student Health Service does not offer gender affirming care for trans students.



Purpose

1. To promote the welfare of students who identify as transgender or outside of the gender binary.
2. To ensure the SU is clear in its stance on gender justice and works as an active ally to the transgender community, to further and support the SU's core value of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
3. To support the national fight for transgender rights and oppose the marginalisation of a minority group.



Action

1. The SU, led by the ELA Officer, to create a vision or strategy that aims to further gender justice within the organisation and within UoB.
2. The SU to ensure that trans students and all students affected by the issue of gender justice are involved in this process of creating the above vision/strategy.
3. The SU to lobby the Student Health Service to provide improved gender affirming care for trans students, including lobbying for the provision of shared care agreements.
4. The SU to lobby the university to provide funding for trans students to access private healthcare when NHS waiting lists are unsustainable and significantly impacting an individual's wellbeing and ability to study.
5. The SU to lobby the university to maintain its commitment to working with Stonewall.
6. The SU to lobby the university to provide more gender neutral toilets and facilities across campus.





Bristol SU