

Motion Name: Supporting trans and non-binary students & campaigning for Gender Justice

Proposer: Jamie Jewkes

Seconded: Tobi Gates

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 TransActual's Trans lives survey 2021, 99% of trans people have experienced transphobia on social media, 85% of trans women reported being subject to transphobic street harassment (71% for trans men, and 73% for non-binary people), and 98% of trans people described transition-related healthcare available on the NHS as not completely adequate.
3. According to Stonewall's 2018 university report, 60% of trans students have been the target of negative comments or conduct from other students, and 36% faced negative comments or conduct from university staff.
4. The current government's lack of action in response to the Supreme Court ruling in April, and their action to put into place an indefinite ban on puberty blockers represent a further regression in the rights of trans people.
5. 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.
6. The SU's current active policy to support trans students is subject to lapse, and is out of date given recent political developments, such as the Supreme Court ruling.
7. Trans students at Bristol have been campaigning for better support, most notably in relation to healthcare for many years. Progress has been made, but more needs to be done.
8. Our understanding of the experiences of many Trans students at Bristol, is that they often do not register with or utilise the Student Health Service as they do not routinely offer shared care for gender affirming healthcare for students. This means students are forced to pay out of pocket for care that should be free.

Purpose:

1. To promote the welfare of students who are transgender or non-binary.
2. To ensure the SU is clear in its stance on gender justice and works as an active ally to the transgender community.
3. To further and support the SU's core value of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.

4. To support the national fight for transgender rights and oppose the marginalisation of a minority group.

Actions:

1. The SU, led by the ELA Officer and the University of Bristol Trans Students' Society, to renew and promote the gender justice strategy.
2. The SU to ensure that trans students and representatives are involved in all processes related to the SU's campaigns for trans people.
3. The SU to lobby the Student Health Service to provide gender affirming care for trans students, notably including lobbying for the provision of shared care agreements.
4. The SU to work with and build relationships with external trans community organisations in Bristol.
5. The SU to support harm reduction measures in regards to trans students that cannot access gender-affirming healthcare through the NHS.
6. The SU to work with the University of Bristol Trans Students' Society and other external trans community organisations to signpost to, and advocate for, free blood testing for students who are self-medicating hormone replacement therapy.
7. The SU to work with the University of Bristol Trans Students' Society and the Bristol trans community to improve on campus access to organisations who provide free needles, syringes, and sharps bins for students who are self-medicating hormone replacement therapy.
8. The SU to lobby the university to review how hardship funding is assessed for trans students who are self-funding their transition due to NHS waiting lists.
9. The SU to lobby the university to provide more gender neutral toilets and facilities across campus.
10. The SU to advocate for EHRC guidance to meet the needs of our trans students, supporting students and full-time officers to directly challenge guidance that falls short of this
11. Bristol to operate in accordance with the requirements of Safe Space Bristol and to explore applying for the Safe Space UK accreditation scheme
12. The SU to lobby the University to increase the Gender Expression Fund, allowing for students to apply for more than £100.
13. The Sport and Student Development Officer to continue to develop gender inclusivity in sport, and continue lobbying the University to provide gender neutral facilities at Coombe Dingle, the Indoor Sports Centre, and the Swimming Pool.