



Passed by Executive:
Passed by Union Council and became Policy: 25 February 2010
Lapses: February 2013

Gender Neutral Toilets (GNTs)

This Union Notes:

1. That its core Constitution 2 (Purpose) states “The purpose of CUSU shall be to represent, promote and advance the educational, welfare, sporting, social and cultural interests of all students enrolled at Coventry University” and also in core Constitution 3 (Objects) “To actively promote equality of opportunity, access and good relations amongst its members, and employees, regardless of ethnic or national origin, colour, gender, sexuality, disability or illness, age, cultural, political and religious beliefs, or caring responsibilities
2. That gender is self-defined, as opposed to physically determined
3. That, biologically, sex is not a straightforward issue, as many are born with an ambiguous sex; and that gender is not binary in nature (see i below)
4. The NUS LGBT policy to campaign for gender-neutral (see ii below) toilets in all educational institutions and students’ unions
5. That gender-neutral toilets may be used by all staff and students

This Union Believes:

1. That those of a non-binary gender should be welcome in every section of the Union
2. That confining gender to a binary distinction discriminates against students that do not define as only either male or female, and that those who do not conform to common gender stereotypes should be able to use the facilities they are most comfortable with, free from discrimination and harassment
3. That a lack of appropriate facilities for trans students could make them reluctant to use the Union’s buildings
4. That moves towards making gender-neutral toilets available by student bodies in Universities such as Bradford and Sussex provide a positive precedent that deserves following

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Executive Officers to look into provision of a Gender Neutral Toilet within the Students’ Union

2. To make feminine hygiene services available in any gender-neutral facilities as is done in the female toilets, for those trans students with particular needs associated with the female sex, and for the female students who choose to use them

Proposed By: Tom Fisher, LGBT Officer

Seconded By: Liah Maccallam, Vice President Welfare

- i. *Queer Theories* by Donald E. Hall, Chapter 3, p94-98, which discusses some groups who may not chose to identify with either the male or female bipolarities: trans individuals (as an umbrella term including TS/TV/I individuals), radical feminists, and LGB (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual) individuals
- ii. A term implying that a toilet will not be gendered to “male” or “female”, but instead open to use for everyone. Sometimes termed “unisex”