

No Platform Policy



Fascism and racism can be deemed as abuse and can be a form of a hate crime within society. As a Students Union, it is our job to represent all students and to attempt to unite students against these attacks. As a part of this, it is vital that we do not allow those who wish to spread hatred and division onto our campus and it is the job of the Students Union Executive Team to educate members on the need to oppose discrimination and the need for a No Platform policy.

Coventry Students Union have been active in seeking to challenge discriminatory behaviour, from promoting 'kicking racism out of football' in 2013 to more recently working towards strengthening its platform on equality and diversity of its students.

Students Unions should be safe spaces for all and we should be making sure we are a safe space by not allowing those who wish to discriminate against ethnicities and cause division upon our campus.

We equally need to push the University to remain safe for students, and we should do that by ensuring the University adopt a similar No Platform policy and liaise with the Protection Services if anything was to occur.

As highlighted by NUS, "Students' unions are private bodies, and have a right to refuse individuals and groups who threaten the safe environment students' unions provide for their members. No platform policies as well as equal opportunities policies are tools in which students' unions provide and maintain a safe environment for their members. Creating an environment that promotes multiculturalism and equality is not just, therefore, for the sake of some students, but it is a tool for reducing potential conflict among the diverse communities that exist in campuses".

The Students Union also recognises that No Platform only works where such groups do not have a platform already – although we have a zero tolerance policy towards hate crimes and this kind of issue is similar, it is also very different due to the sheer mass of people on campus who may be somewhat affected by this level of discrimination.

As a Union, we do not permit these individuals or organisations onto our campus and would be challenging their views if this behaviour was to be seen in any of the University buildings.

This Union Notes:

1. There is a diverse population in Coventry University. This diversity is defined in several ways by, but not limited to, means of: gender, sexual orientation, race, beliefs and levels of abilities. With regards to race and ethnicity, the

statistics below are collated from the year 2015/2016: 48.3% define as White, 17.5% define as Black, 3.2% define as Arab, 15.3% define as Chinese/other Asian, 13.0% define as South Asian, 3.2% define as Mixed 3.4% define as either Other or Unknown

2. This diversity of people needs to be protected on campus and feel safe always.
3. That some students' may believe that this affects their right to freedom of speech and equal opportunities, particularly due to the fact that we have political societies on campus.
4. "Hate speech is both a calculated affront to the dignity of vulnerable members of the society and a calculated assault on the public good of inclusiveness" (Waldon 2012) or Abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice against a group, especially on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation (Oxford Dictionary).

This Union Believes:

1. That hate speech, racism and fascism are still rife in all aspects of society and that it should be confronted whenever it is found.
2. That students and students' unions have a long proud record of achievement in the fight against hate speech, racism and fascism.
3. That in line with the union's equal opportunities policy, the union should be at the forefront of campaigns to combat prejudice on the form of ethnic origin or religious belief, i.e. racism, fascism, hate speech.
4. That a no platform policy is a key element in the fight against racism and hate speech on campus.
5. That the no-platform policy compliments equal opportunities policies and the public order act.

This Union Resolves:

1. Individuals who propagate hate speech or promote racist or fascist views will not be permitted to enter union premises

2. Individuals who propagate hate speech or promote racist or fascist views will not be permitted to speak at a union event.
3. Not to allow any individual who is known to hold racist or fascist from distributing any written or recorded material in the union which expresses those views.
4. Individuals who propagate hate speech or promote racist or fascist views will not be permitted to speak alongside elected officers at an event
5. That resolutions one to four shall be known as the union's 'no platform policy'
6. To set clear guidelines as to who will be allowed into University buildings and ensure students know how to report and who to report to if such happenings occur.
7. To reject and eject any unauthorised persons in the buildings.
8. To adopt this policy in all CUSU venues, events and all staff and students' training.
9. To resource the promotion of this policy, at least once every year, in order to educate CUSU members.

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