



Goldsmiths Students' Union
General Meeting
Goldsmiths SU Lounge and Online
27 February, 17:00 - 18:00

Agenda

		Presenter	Time	Page
1	Welcome, Introductions	Victoria	17:05 - 17:10	-
2	What is General Meeting	Mana	17:10 - 17:12	-
3	Rules	Victoria	17:12 - 17:15	-
4	Defend the Right to Boycott Motion	Discussion	17:15 - 17:30	2-3
5	The Palestine Solidarity Motion	Discussion	17:30 - 17:45	4-6
6	Voting		17:45 - 18:00	-
7	AOB			-

Attendance:

- **SU President - Victoria**
- **Campaigns and Activities Officer - Izzy**
- **Education Officer - Gammorah**
- **Policy Advisor - Mana**
- **Student Engagement Manager - Rhiannon**
- **CEO - Ed**
- **Attendees: 71 in person, 72 Online**

Apologies:

-

1. Welcome & Introduction

Student IDs and names were taken down from people attending online and in person to ensure the meeting was quorate. Policy Advisor explained what the General Meeting is and that it has been called by the Student forum to vote on motions that would benefit from wider student input.

2. Rules

The rules of the meeting were read by the Chair:

As a students' union we fully support the principle of freedom of speech and take every care to ensure that a wide range of students attend our events, we have allocated time for people to talk for and against the motions submitted today, and we ask you to to be respectful of everyone's time and practice your right to lawful freedom of speech within your allocated time.

If you raise your hand to talk for or against a motion, you will be given 2 minutes to talk. If a student wants to talk twice they can only do so if there is still time left and no one else has their hand up.

We also ask you to adhere to our safe space policy. Harassment, hostility and aggression will not be tolerated in any form and if we feel that you have overstepped these boundaries you may be asked to leave.

3. Motions

Defend the right to boycott	Introduce	The structure of the debate was explained by the chair. The proposer couldn't attend the meeting but their statement was sent to the SU prior to the meeting and was read by the chair: <i>Firstly, thank you all for being here and</i>
------------------------------------	------------------	---

		<p><i>showing support to both motions. Unfortunately, both myself and Bianca cannot attend the AGM due to work and fieldwork commitments.</i></p> <p><i>Many of you are probably aware that The Student's Union already has a Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions (BDS) of Israel apartheid motion/policy in place as of 2014/15. However, the proposed anti-boycott bill that the government has tabled (2022/23) is set to threaten our right to protest and boycott, and also undermines our campaigns for justice. Most importantly for us, this bill is set to disrupt our campaigns supporting Palestine and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. This new motion will allow both students and staff to campaign against this anti-boycott bill, and continue to support BDS, allowing action, campaigning, protesting and the occupation against Palestinian genocide to continue.</i></p>
	<p>For</p>	<p>Student: BDS are a key part of the palestinian campaign for liberation. It was very successful in South Africa and bringing down the apartheid government there, it is also a very successful tactic.</p> <p>Student: BDS has already been enshrined in the SU for nearly 10 years. This motion is to keep that as the fabric of the su and it has been important to students and the SU historically.</p>
	<p>Against</p>	<p>Student: The Government Bill doesn't stop anyone in their individual capacity from boycotting. The same way that the Government doesn't make decisions about national security, a local authority should not be able to make decisions about boycotting either.</p> <p>I know the Palestinian campaign is passionate about international law. I am Jewish, and the three organisations mentioned in the motion are not particularly big or mainstream. The board of deputy of British Jews has supported this.</p> <p>The motion also means that the local council will prioritise political decisions over financial decisions.</p>

		<p>For su to do this would be a middle finger to the electorate.</p> <p>Student: Students should vote when they can vote to do something. On wednesday I said in a gp chat that I have family in Israel and I was told to shut up. I don't feel safe on campus. No one thinks about people on the other side of this argument.</p> <p>Student: Respectfully, I think people should respectfully stop calling this a conflict.</p> <p>Student: I just want to make a very clear point. this whole debate in general. One thing we need to take into consideration is how Jews on campus are a minority compared to non-Jews on campus. So I know many people feel comfortable to express that the BDS motion is positive when they are not facing all the backlash. I am Jewish myself and come from a Jewish background. My father works for Palestinian Israeli companies. So my family has fought for peace between the states and not being able to come to campus is not okay.</p>
	defend	-
Solidarity with Palestine	Introduce	<p>Policy advisor explained the same structure of debate will be followed for the second motion, and afterwards voting will begin. Proposer was asked to introduce the motion.</p> <p>Proposer: It's a motion that puts us in solidarity with Palestinians. When you look at the situation in Palestine where over a million Palestinians have been displaced and murdered and found in the rubble, the need for this becomes clear.</p> <p>We want Goldsmiths to recognise the genocide in Palestine, recognise the palestinians rights to resist, and recognise Israel as an apartheid state</p> <p>It is a crucial time to pass this motion, in Goldsmiths context where students are taking action like the occupation, it is important that this is enshrined in the GSU.</p> <p>I'm a minority, Muslim, from South Asian</p>

		<p>background, because of this I am anti racist and that is why I am standing for palestine.</p> <p>Anti-semitism is not anti-zionism.</p>
	<p>For</p>	<p>Student: Almost all of Gaza has been destroyed by the Israeli government as we sit here today. It's important that we end this university's complicity with the genocide, through its investments.</p> <p>This motion will assist in our efforts on campus to do this.</p> <p>Student: This Jewish student stands for solidarity with palestine. Not every Jewish student will conflate anti-semitism with anti-zionism.</p> <p>Student: I think anti-zionism has been weaponized for decades to justify the genocide. The fact that we are having this conversation today when children are dying is profound, brown children are dying everyday and that is not okay.</p>
	<p>Against</p>	<p>Student: I would like to ask how many of you students there have a connection to Israel or Palestine? How many of you know people who have died? How many of you have been there? There are also thousands dying in Sudan. This motion specifically targets the IHRA definition of anti-semitism.</p> <p>The person who proposed this motion is the one who led the chants "globalise the intifada". Intifada refers to a series of terrorist attacks targeted at both civilian and military targets.</p> <p>This is what [redacted] called for. She is now defining anti semitism for us?</p> <p>Student: I would like to urge you guys to think critically about the emotional response you're having. I would like to think critically about where all the support for Palestine is coming from. Palestine is a small place. The flags we see around and our feeds being flooded are not funded by palestine.</p> <p>Palestinian children are being taught to hate</p>

		<p>Jews. Islamics cannot go to gaza. It is not a free place. In October young people were raped and murdered. It's not fair.</p> <p>Student: I have been to Israel and Gza, my family works for peace. Anti-semitism is on the rise and you cannot ignore this fact, It increased 1350% in October. I am Jewish and an indigenous student and you cannot explain what these are to me, you have not experienced these. A month ago we were physically attacked on a night out in Soho and our stars of davids were pulled from our necks. You cannot ignore this.</p>
	defend	<p>Student: I am an anti racist activist, I stand against far rights and fascists, I also fight anti semitism every time I see it. I recognise our government being racist, nothing in this motion says that we are not against anti semitism.</p> <p>Someone asked about our connection to Palestine, we believe Palestine is the moral compass of the world.</p>

4. Votes

The QR code for the Voting form was shared with attendees. The link to the form was also shared in the Zoom chat. The chair explained that people attending in person can also vote physically if they can't access the form for any reason. Voting was open from 5:45 pm to 6pm, during which time votes were collected. Students were assured that voting is anonymous and their details are only collected in order to confirm their right to vote. The Policy Advisor announced that the votes will be counted after the meeting and that results will hopefully be announced by the end of the week.

5. AOB

-