



Goldsmiths Students' Union Policy

Goldsmiths Students' Union Student Assembly

Motion proposed by Soren Goard

Motion Title:

Reaffirming No Platform Policy

This Union Notes:

1. That the election in 2009 of two members of the British National Party to the European Parliament marked an electoral breakthrough for the fascists and threatens to normalise the presence of the BNP in mainstream politics. The BNP capitalised on these results during the general and local elections in 2010 with a 1.2% rise in their share of votes.

2. That the BNP is dedicated to an all-white Britain, the destruction of trade unions and the elimination of basic democratic rights. Its politics of hate and division threaten the freedoms and safety of those the party would see annihilated – Jews, black people, trade unionists, Muslims and all ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, disabled people and anybody who stands for a democratic society.

3. That the English Defence League – a racist anti-Muslim group with links to the fascist BNP – has been mounting a series of "protests" in towns and cities around the country, including London this year. These protests regularly feature racist chanting and Nazi salutes. They

are aimed at whipping up hatred against the Muslim community.

4. That fascist organisations and those who share their ideology and action, such as the BNP and EDL, have used the defence of freedom of speech to then use any organisation to stamp out minority groups that they target.

5. That the record of the British anti-fascist movement is what has actively prevented the rise of fascism. Compared with the *Front National* and *Xrysi Avgi* (Golden Dawn) the BNP and EDL are unable to play a legitimate mainstream role in national politics. This has not arisen because of an innate aversion to fascism or racism in British society but because there have been regular challenges throughout our history; through No Platform, election campaigns and through street mobilisations. The street mobilisations of the Lewisham community in 1977 right outside this building were crucial in the delegitimization and downfall of the National Front.

This Union Believes:

1. That the threat of fascism remains as the global economic crisis continues not just in Europe but in Britain also.

2. That it should be made clear that fascists are not welcome on union premises or at any union event

3. That students and students' unions have a long proud record of achievement in the fight against discrimination and fascism.

4. That in line with the union's equal opportunities policy, the union should be at the forefront of campaigns to combat prejudice wherever it is found and in whatever forms it takes.

5. That a 'no platform' policy is a continuation of the fight against discrimination on campus. Fascist organisations frequently espouse views that are defined as 'hate speech' and thus the Student Union would also have a responsibility to safeguard its members from such attacks.

6. However fascism is not simply a set of offensive views, but a political attack on democracy. There is a clear distinction between allowing debate within a union and willingly giving a platform to fascist organisations. No Platform does not undermine the legal right to free speech - it is to ensure that the Students' Union plays no role in legitimizing the forces that would themselves attack free speech.

This Union Resolves:

1. Not to allow any member of a fascist organisation to enter union premises.

2. Not to allow any member of a fascist organisation to speak at a union event

3. Not to allow any member of a fascist organisation to distribute any written or recorded material in the union that expresses those views.

4. That no elected officer of the union will speak on a platform with a member of a fascist organisation.

5. That resolutions one to four shall be known as the union's 'no platform policy'

6. To widely publicise this policy, not only to its members but also to the institution.

7. To condemn and to campaign against the University if they allow anyone that holds fascist views onto University property