

## **Stance on Transphobia**

### **Union Notes:**

That a gender identity is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act, 2010 “which bans unfair treatment and helps achieve equal opportunities in the workplace and in wider society.”  
(<http://homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/equality-act>)

A recent NUS report into Hate Crime found that almost 1 in 2 trans\* students had experienced at least one hate incident motivated by prejudice against their gender identity

That suicide rates amongst LGBT youth is comparatively higher than the general population, often due to social pressures placed upon them by a heterocentric culture.

That approximately 50% of trans\* youth will attempt suicide in their lives.

That since 1970, International Transgender Day of Remembrance ([transgenderdior.org](http://transgenderdior.org)) has recorded the names of over 700 trans\* individuals who were killed for being trans\* globally, yet it is believed that many, many more go unreported each year.

### **Union Believes:**

That trans\* individuals face daily judgement, discrimination and hostility in relation to their gender identity and/or presentation.

That incidences of transphobia are as serious and unacceptable as incidences of homophobia, racism, sexism, and sexual harassment.

That trans\* individuals have a right to be treated with respect in relation to their gender identity and/or presentation.

That trans\* individuals should be referred to by their pronoun of choice and that their pronoun of choice be appropriately modelled by others when requested.

That trans\* individuals should be able to use whatever bathroom they feel comfortable with without harassment from others and that bathroom access is based on their own gender identity and not how gender is read on their bodies and/or how well they do or do not “pass” as the gender they identify with.

That Goldsmiths College prides itself on being inclusive, divisive and unique and as such should be a space where trans\* students are not only free to identify and present their gender however they see fit, but that Goldsmiths Students Union will be there to offer support and advice as and when is needed.

**Union Resolves:**

To condemn transphobic attitudes and speech both with the union and all its activities, in the college and in society.

To ensure that should incidences of transphobia be found to be happening in the union that proper disciplinary procedures should be followed.

To educate staff and sabbatical officers via equality training on how to conduct themselves appropriately toward trans\* staff, students and guests of Goldsmiths College.

To construct a comprehensive bathroom policy that ensures harassment of trans\* individuals is unacceptable.