

## Goldsmiths Students' Union Policy

**Goldsmiths Students' Union Student Assembly**

**Proposed by Alex Etches**

**Seconded by Jamie Green**

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**Motion Title:**

**Solidarity with Syriza!**

Proposer: Alex Etches

Seconder: Jamie Green

**Notes:**

The victory of Syriza in Greece marks a historic moment in the movement against austerity.

Syriza ran on a platform of stopping austerity that has been imposed by the Troika – a coalition of the European Union and unelected/unaccountable institutions like the IMF and the European Central bank.

Greece is at breaking point: Unemployment sits at 25%, youth unemployment at over 50%, pensions have been cut by 45%, the economy has shrunk massively since 2008 and poverty is rife.

The student movement has a long tradition of solidarity with the labour movement and international struggles.

**Believes:**

The austerity imposed on Greece and other European countries by the Troika is not only undemocratic, but plunging millions of workers into poverty in order to address a crisis caused by the banks.

Austerity is also being used in other European countries to force working people into paying for a crisis they did not create, whilst the rich in Europe get even richer.

The victory of Syriza should be celebrated, but most importantly should be used to spread the message that austerity is neither necessary nor fair.

The victory of Syriza was underpinned by various solidarity movements such as 'Solidarity for All' that not only filled the voids created by austerity, but convinced people another world was possible at a grassroots level. These deserve our admiration and support.

There is enough money in society to pay the debts of austerity, but it should be paid by the very richest in society.

Syriza need international solidarity in their fight to renegotiate their debts with the Troika, who are unrepentant in their efforts to keep austerity and implement a programme of cuts and push a neo-liberal agenda.

The neo-liberal vision for society by the likes of the Troika and the European right is clear. We need to propose an alternative and Syriza gives us an opportunity to do that.

The success of Syriza in Greece against austerity has great potential to revive the anti-austerity movement in Europe at large.

#### Resolves

To show its solidarity with Syriza and its efforts against the Troika and in reversing austerity.

To send a message of solidarity to its youth wing on behalf of students at Goldsmiths, as well as to other struggles like the 'Rubber Glove Revolt' and 'Solidarity for All'

To reaffirm Goldsmiths SU's commitment to fighting austerity, not only in the UK, but internationally.

To campaign on the following principles in the upcoming general election:

- An end to austerity – tax the rich and make the banks pay for their crisis!
- Reverse the cuts made by the Tories, call on a future government to do the same.
- A living wage for every worker.
- Stop student poverty: an end to tuition fees and living grants for every student!
- For the labour and student movements to adopt these stances also.
- To call for a government based on the organised labour movement

To build links with youth movement in other European countries who are fighting cuts.