

Motion: Fighting Fascism and Racism

Proposed: Bahar Mustafa

Seconded: Alex Etches

Union Notes:

1. On Thursday November 12th 2015 Goldsmiths Students' Union received reports that anti-semitic graffiti in the form of a swastika and the words "*burn it down*" were seen at the Laurie Grove entrance.
2. Recently, Baghdad, Beirut and Paris came under attack.
3. There have been ongoing attacks in Syria and Palestine (to name a few places in the Middle East) and it is widely reported that the perpetrators are the same as those who attacked Paris this weekend.
4. After the attack in Paris, the far right and mainstream media are establishing an anti-Muslim and anti-migrant response to these attacks, reinforcing their racist, nationalist, and fascist agendas.

Union Believes:

1. Recent attacks in Beirut, Baghdad, and Paris, and the ongoing attacks in Syria and Palestine have attracted international media coverage and have led to responses by fascist and racist groups who exploit these attacks in order to organise around them and further push their fascist, racist and anti-semitic political agendas.
2. Challenging fascist and racist groups through street mobilisations, No Platforming policies, physical confrontation and awareness campaigns have been effective in stunting the growth of various far-right organisations. For example, the Battle of Lewisham in 1977, where anti-fascist, anti-racist protestors and locals stopped the National Front from demonstrating, was pivotal in delegitimizing the fascist party.
3. Physical confrontation is not the only affective tactic and is inaccessible to many students, because of reasons not limited to PTSD or other mental health issues incurred by these actions or historical racism, whiteness and generalised privilege often common in this strain of anti-fascism.
4. Propaganda and other measures are equally valid
5. That the police and state are complicit in the growth of various far-right fascist and racist organisations by protecting their 'right' to march unopposed in areas populated by ethnic and religious minorities who are targets of these groups.
6. We need to stand in solidarity with migrants, refugees, Muslims, Jews, and all ethnic and religious minorities who are targeted by these far-right groups and the prevailing media.
7. That anti-semitism, Islamophobia, and fascism have no place on our campus.

8. Borders kill.

Union Resolves:

1. Mandate the Union to ascertain CCTV footage of Laurie Grove area around the time of the incident.
2. Affiliate to Anti-raids network and the pay standard fee (providing it's less than £30).
3. Mandate the Union to stand against military intervention in Syria.
4. Mandate the Union to stand against borders and in solidarity with migrants.