

Emergency Motion: International Students Walk-out

Proposed: Danny Nasr (Education Officer)

Seconded: Adrihani Abd Rashid (President)

Goldsmiths Students' Union notes:

1. International students have been under constant attack by the Home Office for a number of years.
2. These attacks have intensified since 2012 with the revocation of the 'Highly Trusted Sponsorship' of London Metropolitan University, scrapping of the post-study work visa provision and other changes to the immigration system.
3. In recent months, the government has reformed the student immigration process (Tier 4 Visa structure) further through the following conditions:
 - a. International students in Further Education (FE) cannot work while on a student visa
 - b. Student visas for FE institutions now have a cap of 2 years, instead of 3
 - c. International students in both FE and Higher Education (HE) cannot transfer courses/programmes throughout their study, unless facilitated through the Home Office
 - d. Dependents (that is spouses, kin, etc) cannot work in "low skilled" employment
 - e. HE and FE Students wanting to continue to work in the UK after studies will be deported to their home countries where they can apply for their separate, work visa there
4. The number of visa refusal has increased significantly over the past couple of years and the new immigration rules will come into effect in November.
5. There is currently a refugee crisis in Europe as millions of people across various parts of the Middle East and Africa flee persecution and look for sanctuary in Europe.

Goldsmiths Students' Union believes:

1. The government is creating a culture of fear in which international students and migrants alike feel as though they have no socio-political value
2. That while the reforms are explicitly and structurally oppressive, they create real anxiety and strain on the welfare of international students
3. The onslaught on international students' rights in the UK is not an isolated matter and is part of a bigger picture of the anti migrant sentiment which is growing in the UK.
4. The UK government's response to the refugee crisis has been inadequate to say the least.

5. The anti-migrant sentiment growing in the country, which had previously severely affected international students, is now manifesting itself in how the most vulnerable migrants, who are refugees, are being treated.
6. As a progressive movement aimed at achieving a freer, accessible education, it is our responsibility to stand in solidarity with all migrants and condemn the government's attitude towards them.

Goldsmiths Students' Union resolves:

1. Goldsmiths SU should priorities the plight of migrants in general, and that of international students and refugees in particular, in its' campaigning activities.
2. Goldsmiths SU to fully support, endorse and encourage a national day of walkout on 'International Students' Day', November 17th. This would be to raise awareness regarding the treatment of refugees, international students and the wider migrant communities in the UK and to show the government that students overwhelmingly reject the government's attitude towards migration.
3. Goldsmiths SU to lobby the university to stand in solidarity with our day of action.
4. Goldsmiths SU to campaign on raising awareness on the walkout, and to mobilise students for the action.
5. Goldsmiths SU communication team to particularly magnify this day of action by producing relevant material as well as distributing videos and other promoting material, provided by NUS.