

Blood Donation

This Union Notes:

1. The National Blood Service (NBS) policy bans donations from men who have had anal or oral sex with another man, or from women who have had sex during the last 12 months with a man who has had anal or oral sex with another man.
2. That many heterosexuals who have engaged in high-risk unprotected sexual activity, or who have had sex in high-risk countries, are not totally prevented from donation.
3. Many gay and bisexual men live in monogamous long-term relationships presenting little or no risk of contracting HIV/Aids.
4. The National Blood Service runs many successful donation sessions on campus.

This Union Believes:

1. That the current NBS policy discriminates against gay and bisexual men by stigmatising a group, rather than assessing the risk of individual behaviour and actions.
2. The policy also acts to perpetuate the myth that 'aids is a gay disease'.
3. That the NBS should not regard all gay and bisexual men, whether monogamous or not, as constituting a single group with a single level of risk.
4. That many gay and bisexual men may not be sexually active, but are still barred from donation, whilst those who practice safe sex are treated the same as those who do not use protection.
5. That blood donation is a worthwhile and civic duty and in no way should we discourage people from donating blood at sessions on campus.

This Union Resolves:

1. To support the LGBT society in their campaign to change the discriminatory policy of the national blood service and battle against blood shortages.
2. To lobby our local MP on the issue, expressing our concern at the policy.
3. To write letters to both the NBS Chief Executive and Melanie Johnson MP (Minister with responsibility for the NBS), expressing our disapproval, whilst also lobbying for a change to the regulations.

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