

Resolution Against Unjust Government Measurements Targeting Muslim Students

This Union Believes

1. A climate of fear has been generated within the Muslim community by Government proposals, a secret shoot-to-kill policy and sensational media coverage in the aftermath of the London Bombings¹.
2. Muslim university students are under increasing pressure after a speech by education secretary Ruth Kelly to the Universities UK Annual conference 15th September 2005² where she suggested that British Universities "spy on student activists to prevent the spread of Islamist extremism and terror³".
3. A report authored by Professor Anthony Glee of Brunel University accuses certain universities of having extremists on campus.
4. The report in Sunday Times on 10th July 2005 that university societies were under surveillance from MI5 and Special Branch.

This Union further believes

1. The assertions of Professor Glee that there are extremists operating on campus and they pose a threat to national security are dramatic statements that hold no true reality.
2. It is the right of students to discuss and debate issues on campus in an environment free of fear and intimidation.

This Union resolves

1. To recognise criticism of the policies of this, or any other country, cannot be classed as extremism.
2. To present a motion to the NUS National Conference by the December deadline calling for the protection of Muslim students' right to different political viewpoints and privacy.
3. To condemn the recent addition to the Anti Terrorism Law as Islamophobic.
4. To issue a press release on this debate's result on to the student union's website.

¹ A survey commissioned by FOSIS in August 2005 stated that 33% of correspondents felt uncomfortable being a Muslim in Britain after the 7/7 attacks in London

² Kelly, R. 'Keynote Speech to Universities UK Annual conference'. September 15, 2005 reproduced in The Guardian, Retrieved 30th September 2005 from <http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,9830,1571027,00.html>

³ Halpin, T. 'Universities told to spy on student extremists'. 16 September 2005. The Times. Retrieved 30th September from <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3561-1782865,00.html>

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