

An Active Role in the Review of the Coca Cola Contracts

This Union Notes:

1. That NUS Services policy now requires all contracts with Coca Cola to be reviewed in June 2006
2. That extensive work has been undertaken by NUS Services with Coca Cola under the policy of "constructive engagement" to determine whether they continue to be an acceptable supplier
3. That in Colombia in 2003 an international boycott of Coca-Cola products was called by the trade union Sinaltrainal, which represents workers at the company's bottling plants
4. That in Columbia, at least eight Coca Cola employees have allegedly been killed by paramilitaries who target union members
5. That in India, allegations of malpractice have been made concerning
6. Coca-Cola's distribution of contaminated solid waste to farmers as fertiliser and the excessive extraction of ground water, which has led to drought and low crop yields
7. That the Coca Cola Company continuously denies these allegations

This Union Believes:

1. That there is evidence to support these allegations and that therefore Coca Cola is not an acceptable supplier
2. That NUS Services policy currently precludes a financially viable Coca Cola boycott within individual unions
3. That there is evidence that Pepsi, Coca Cola's main competitor, is not an acceptable alternative
4. That NUS Services is a key customer for Coca Cola in the UK
5. That a NUS Services boycott of Coca Cola would send a very powerful message to the Coca Cola Company, and help lead to improved conditions for their employees and the communities their factories operate in
6. Failing that, that NUS Services policy allowing individual unions to boycott Coca Cola would allow this union and others to express their distaste with the company without suffering major financial difficulties or leaving NUS Services
7. That this union's current Nestle boycott, which is facilitated by NUS Services policy, continues to be an effective campaign

This Union Resolves:

1. To work throughout the year, in conjunction with the relevant union societies, external bodies, and other unions, such as UK Students Against Coke and the Columbia Solidarity Campaign, to publicise the Coca Cola debate, however and wherever appropriate.
2. To engage with NUS Services at every opportunity, to put forward our views, and to seek as much information as possible about the ongoing research and discussions with Coca Cola.
3. To send at least the NUS Services Liaison Officer to every relevant NUS Services event in the coming year in order to maximise the opportunities for this.
4. To mandate this union's elected representative for 2005-2006 on NUS Services' ethical and environmental committee, and the NLO, to uphold this union's policy on Coca Cola whilst acting in those roles.
5. To propose a motion for NUS Services AGM 2006 reflecting this union's policy on Coca Cola,

as part of a review of the policy prior to NUS Services' decision on the contracts, to be decided by Union Council.