

1746 #RefugeesWelcomeHere

Passed 15 October 15

Proposer: Dan Wrigglesworth (Labour Students)

Seconder: Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio officer)

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) has submitted the following amendments (marked in blue) which have been accepted by the proposer.

Union Notes

1. The United Kingdom has received just over 7,000 applications for asylum from Syrian nationals, significantly fewer than European partners like Austria (18,647) and Sweden (64,685). According to Eurostat, there were around 29,100 Syrians seeking asylum for the first time in Europe in the first three months of 2015.
2. Students unions' across the UK are mobilizing to provide support for the refugee crisis – Edinburgh University and Ayrshire college to name a few
3. There has been a petition lobbying David Cameron to take action which has received over 200,000 signatures
4. A press statement has come from the Petitions Committee stating that because "the House of Commons has already had several opportunities to debate this issue, the Committee decided that the time was not right for another debate on the same issue."
5. The sitting government has made reducing migration a political priority.
6. International students are currently counted in net migration figures.

Union believes

1. The UK has a moral obligation to help those fleeing conflict and violence by providing a place for refuge
2. That a further debate should go forward in the House of Commons, to resolve how the UK plays its vital part.
3. Returning to the country they are fleeing is simply not an option.
4. When government fails to act, citizens, organisations and activists are entitled to lobby their government to take appropriate action and where

they still fail to take direct action to support those in need and bring about change.

5. The current government's policies on migration constitute an aggressive demonization of migration and asylum, which coupled with a media that is hostile to migration generally and migrants specifically has led to a toxic public discourse around migration.
6. Britain needs a humane migration policy that is welcoming to refugees as well as economic migrants.
7. The clampdown on migrants is having a severely detrimental effect on international students.

Union Resolves

1. For UEA SU to write to the Prime minister to call on the UK to accept more refugees.
2. For UEA SU to publish a statement in support of the UK accepting more refugees.
3. For a template letter to be issued on our website to enable students to lobby their MP and local councils on the issue.
4. To oppose and condemn the demonization of innocent refugees coming here for shelter.
5. To offer a permanent collection point in Union House for refugees in Calais for as long as the crisis continues.
6. To support students participating in solidarity actions, runs to Calais, direct action against anti-refugee groups and any other campaigning activity in solidarity with refugees and migrants.
7. To support campaigns against deportations of international students, in addition to actions for better conditions in detention centres.