

Motion for Equal Access to Faith and Wellbeing Resources for Students from Non-Abrahamic Faiths and Traditions

Submitted by Akshaya Rajangam

Conference believes:

1. That there is a lack of adequate tailored faith-based support from university chaplaincies and students' unions for students of non-Abrahamic faiths creating a distinct barrier to the proper resolution of all wellbeing-related issues that they face.
2. That most UK universities will usually have chaplains from Abrahamic faiths, namely Christian and Muslim, but chaplains from other faiths and traditions are significantly underrepresented relative to the number of students from these communities.
3. That existing multi-faith prayer spaces are not equally accessible to students from all faiths and traditions.
4. That very few UK universities have equal access to multi-faith prayer rooms for Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Buddhist students although dedicated prayer spaces are provided for students from Abrahamic faiths.

Conference further believes:

1. That university campuses today should be an environment where all students, irrespective of their faith, beliefs or traditions, have equal access to tailored university-provided wellbeing support.
2. That all students should have this access notwithstanding the size of their faith community relative to the overall student population.
3. That faith-specific chaplains can provide better support to students from their faith as they better understand the cultural and religious context in which these students navigate their university lives.
4. That the equal provision of and access to multi-faith prayer rooms is crucial in enabling all students to connect to their religious practices as a means of maintaining good wellbeing.

Conference resolves:

1. That all affiliated unions should collaborate with representatives from non-Abrahamic faiths and traditions to gain an understanding of the basic principles underlying them.
2. That all affiliated unions must collaborate with student societies representing non-Abrahamic faiths and traditions to understand the needs of these students whilst at university.
3. That all affiliated unions should provide a space on campus that can be used as a multi-faith prayer room for students from non-Abrahamic faiths and traditions.
4. That all affiliated unions should liaise with their university chaplaincies to create a strategy for recruiting chaplains from non-Abrahamic faiths and traditions.