

NUS Motion Submission

Proposed by Joseph Attard

A motion is a proposed policy. It states what we believe about an issue, and the action we will take. Any students' union that is affiliated to NUS can submit a motion or amendment to National Conference.

The motion is discussed and debated by King's students at AGM, and if it passes, it is sent to NUS National Conference. There, it will be discussed and voted on again, and if it passes, will become NUS policy, so will set out NUS' political stance and work for the year ahead.

Motion to Support KCL Justice for Cleaners; End Outsourcing!

Conference believes:

1. Outsourcing, job casualisation and insecurity are commonplace throughout British society, including the Higher and Further Education sectors.¹
2. Various campaigns have broken out at universities and colleges in response to this situation, including justice for cleaners campaigns at LSE, SOAS and King's College London; and anti-outsourcing campaign at the University of London, and campaigns by casualised teaching staff. Many of these have received NUS backing.²
3. The campaign at KCL is fighting for outsourced cleaners to receive fairer treatment, and ultimately be brought back in-house.³


Conference further believes:

1. The effect of outsourcing on working people's lives is dire. Outsourced workers cover unsociable shifts in terrible and insecure working conditions. Furthermore, they are not entitled to the same rights and protections as those employed by universities directly.
2. The cleaners at King's (mostly of migrant backgrounds, giving a racist dimension to the situation) are currently outsourced to a predatory company called Servest, and even though they are part of King's community they are not being treated on par with in-house staff. Furthermore most of the cleaners are Spanish speaking, and a language barrier becomes a tool of oppression used by the bosses.
3. It is a scandal that our extortionate fees are squandered on expensive procurement projects and Vice-Chancellors' salaries while workers suffer. Outsourcing is a means by which capitalism can squeeze workers for every penny in a period of economic crisis, and represents the inability of the current system to provide meaningful employment to the population.
4. The current situation must stop not only in King's, but also at a national level. Students in universities must join with workers to put an end to outsourcing, which harms university workers and diminishes our

¹ <https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/casualisation-leaves-workers-facing-difficult-and-uncertain-labour-market>

² <http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/london-students-join-striking-cleaning-staff-in-fight-for-fair-conditions-pay-migrants-protest-a7565551.html>

³ <http://roarnews.co.uk/?p=24428>



institutions. This can only be achieved by linking with workers on campus and on the streets against the capitalist system itself.

Conference resolves:

1. To support the cleaners at King's and all other universities where outsourced workers are in dispute by lobbying universities to bring all staff in house on decent pay and terms and conditions.
2. To join workers in all action - up to and including a strike - at both a national and local level. Students must not and will not put up with worker exploitation!