

No Platform for Police at Freshers' Fairs and Union-Run Events

Proposer Name: Cassie de St. Croix (President Canterbury)

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We note:

1. The Union has an existing no platform policy that aims to combat racism and fascism on campus.
2. Recent data from leading charities, including the Runnymede Trust and Amnesty International UK, highlight alarming trends in racial inequality and policing:
 - Police are 6.5 times more likely to strip search Black children, and 4.7 times more likely to strip search Black adults, than their white counterparts.
 - The presence of police officers in schools has increased, with 979 Safer Schools Officers (SSO) operating in schools across Britain, with 489 in London. SSOs are deployed in schools with higher proportions of pupils of colour and working-class pupils.
 - Under Joint Enterprise, Black people are 16 times more likely to be prosecuted, and Asian people 4 times more likely to be prosecuted.
3. The Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act (2022) has raised concerns about increased police powers and potential impacts on civil liberties, particularly for people of colour.
4. Many students, especially those from marginalised communities, may feel uncomfortable or threatened by police presence at university events.
5. The Union acknowledges the difference between the Police as an organisation and the Police as an emergency service. As an organisation, the Police are responsible for 'maintaining law and order'. As an emergency service they are responsible for coordinating responses to major incidents. We understand that in emergency situations or where the university deems it necessary, Police may be present on campus.

UCASU believes:

1. The presence of police at Freshers' Fairs and union-run events may create an unwelcoming and potentially intimidating environment for some students, particularly those from communities that have historically experienced disproportionate policing.
2. Extending our no platform policy to include the police at these events aligns with our commitment to creating a safe and inclusive space for all students.
3. This action would demonstrate the Union's dedication to addressing systemic issues of racism and over-policing that affect our student body.
4. By taking this stance, we can spark important conversations about the role of policing in our community and on campus.

5. This policy would complement our existing efforts to combat racism and discrimination on campus.

UCASU resolves:

1. To extend the no platform policy to prohibit police presence at Freshers' Fairs and all union-run events.
2. To communicate this policy clearly to all event organisers and ensure its implementation across all union activities.
3. To aim to provide alternative resources and information on campus safety, legal rights, and community support services at our events, in place of police-provided materials.
4. To work towards providing space for educational workshops and discussions about the impact of policing on different communities, to help students understand the context of this decision.
5. To work with student groups, particularly those representing marginalised communities, to ensure their voices are heard in the implementation of this policy.
6. To review this policy in line with our policy review cycle, considering student feedback and any new relevant data or research.
7. To actively seek and promote alternative ways to address campus safety concerns that do not involve police presence at student events.
8. To will liaise with the university whenever possible to understand the perceived value of the Police as an organisation on campus where the university deems it necessary but not in an emergency situation.

Resolutions cost:

Implementing this policy may have financial implications for the Union. These could include:

1. Expenses for developing alternative safety resources and information materials that may have otherwise been provided by the Police, such as drinks covers and spiking test kits.
2. Potential costs for organising educational workshops about policing and community impact.

The Union Council should consider these potential financial implications when voting on this motion. If passed, the Union Council should assess the specific costs and suggest allocation of resources as appropriate within the Union's budgetary constraints.