

## The Council

Thursday 6 November 2014

8:15pm

<b>Title</b>	Policy Motion: Zero Tolerance for Prejudice in our Union
<b>Author</b>	Reubs Walsh
<b>Purpose</b>	For consideration and approval. There will be a formal debate on the motion, before it is summed up and a vote taken. A simple majority is required to approve this text as a Policy, which will then be implemented by the Executive or appropriate sub-committee for Welfare & Rights.
<b>URC</b>	14110617

Policy Heading: Welfare & Rights (Opposing Transphobia)

Title: Zero-tolerance for prejudice in our Union

Proposed by: Reubs Walsh

Seconded by: LGBT Committee

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Council believes:

1. Trans people are routinely pilloried in the media, and in popular culture generally.
2. Trans people, particularly trans women are often portrayed as both "funny" and "scary".

Council further believes:

1. This contributes significantly to their oppression in society, along with high suicide and hate crime rates.
2. Trans people's lives are not appropriate subject matter for humour that is produced and controlled by cisgender people.
3. Transphobic fancy dress should be met with the same disdain with which we meet other prejudiced or appropriative costumes.

Council resolves:

1. To issue a statement condemning the use of 'cross-dressing' as a mode of fancy dress.
2. To ban clubs and societies from holding events which permit or encourage (cisgender) members to use 'cross-dressing' as a mode of fancy dress.  
\*(footnote)
3. To implement a zero-tolerance policy for all LGBT-phobic, racist, sexist, ableist or otherwise prejudiced (as the sitting liberation officers shall determine) speech, writing or action on the part of our members, and in particular on the part of our officers and committee members.
4. BSU Liberation Officers will collaborate to bring a motion to the next meeting of council to make this zero-tolerance policy a permanent rule of the Union.

\*footnote: the use of "cross-dressing as a fancy dress costume" must not be mistakenly equated with "cross-play", wherein a fancy dress character's gender is swapped so as to align with the identity of the individual in costume. Similarly, drag (in any direction) as an expression or exploration of queer identity is to be encouraged, since it is easily distinguished from pillory of trans people. Likewise if the intention of the costume is demonstrably that the gender element is for neither humour nor shock-value, it will be deemed acceptable.