



Northeastern
University
London
Students' Union

Union Political Policy

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POLICY SCOPE

The Northeastern University London Student Union (NUSU) Political Policy exists to guide the NUSU's engagement in political matters, ensuring that all actions are fair, democratic, inclusive, and in the best interests of the student body. This policy provides a framework for how the NUSU will approach political issues, campaigns, and advocacy, ensuring representation for the diverse student population.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Freedom of Speech and External Speakers policy, as well as the Student Groups handbook, especially in relation to societies.

This policy applies to:

- The Northeastern University London Student Union as an organization.
- All elected and appointed officers of the NUSU.
- All NUSU-led or NUSU-affiliated groups and Societies.
- All political campaigns and groups under the NUSU's name.



THE POLICY

1. The NUSU commits to the following principles in all political matters:
 - 1.1. **Inclusivity:** Political activity must represent and respect the diversity of the student body, including differences in political views, backgrounds, and experiences.
 - 1.2. **Neutrality:** The NUSU, as an organization, shall remain politically neutral and non-partisan. It shall not endorse or oppose any political party or candidate.
 - 1.3. **Democracy:** The NUSU's political stance or action must be guided by the principles of student democracy, ensuring that all students have a voice and a vote in major political decisions.
 - 1.4. **Transparency:** The NUSU must make all political actions and decisions transparent, clearly communicating to students about processes, reasons, and outcomes.
2. For All NUSU and NUSU-affiliated events
 - 2.1. **Legal Compliance:** Ensure all activities and events comply with UK Law, particularly regarding hate speech and terrorism. This includes vetting speakers and materials to avoid promoting illegal activities.
 - 2.2. **Promoting Free Speech Responsibly:** While encouraging open debate and free speech, the student union must ensure that discussions do not violate equality legislation or promote extremist views.
 - 2.3. **Risk Management:** Conduct regular risk assessments to identify potential vulnerabilities. This includes evaluating the risk of extremist influence in events, publications, and partnerships.
 - 2.4. **Due Diligence:** Perform background checks on guest speakers, partners, and donors to ensure they align with the union's values and legal obligations
 - 2.5. **Monitoring and Reporting:** Establish systems to monitor activities and promptly report any suspicious behaviour or concerns. Encourage members to speak up if they notice anything concerning.
3. Social media and publishing groups



- 3.1. As per the Student Groups Handbook, NUSU affiliated organisations are allowed to manage social media accounts, as well as set up media groups, for the latter provided the Union is first notified.
 - 3.2. Once notified the NUSU will assign an officer to assist the newly created media group (for instance, a society-run newsletter).
 - 3.3. NUSU affiliated groups are allowed to post political content on their social media pages and newsletters, with the following caveats:
 - 3.3.1. The Union may not repost, or generally express support for politically charged statements, unless they explicitly affect every student at the university.
 - 3.3.2. Must not include any extremist or radicalising material as outlined in the [Charity Commission Guidance](#).
 - 3.3.3. Must not include any defamatory statements .
 - 3.3.4. If handling a controversial topic, the assigned Officer may flag it to the Union President for further guidance, and may request it temporarily be removed.
 - 3.4. If not in compliance with the above terms, the NUSU reserves its right to take regulatory measure of the content or stop its publication entirely.
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4. Regulatory Steps
 - 4.1. In the case of a political event being deemed too risky on account of controversy, a guest speaker, or general student safety, the Union will step in to ensure the proper regulatory steps are taken.
 - 4.2. Depending on the severity of risk, these steps may include measures such as:
 - 4.2.1. Limiting the number of students present at the event,
 - 4.2.2. Limiting the number of externals present at the event,
 - 4.2.3. Limiting the online marketing of the event,
 - 4.2.4. Ensuring that one or multiple Union members are present at the event to monitor it,
 - 4.2.5. Ensuring that one or multiple Staff members are present at the event to monitor it,
 - 4.2.6. Cancelling an external speaker, should they not comply with the established procedures and deadlines,
 - 4.3. If an NUSU affiliated group or student refuses to follow the proposed regulations, the Union reserves its right to cancel the event,
 - 4.4. More detailed information on procedures can be found in the Freedom of Speech and External speaker policy.



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SIGNATORIES

Agreed by the Union on September 17th, 2024, with a majority of 9 to 0 votes.

To be reviewed in 2 years, on September 16th, 2026.

Signed by:

NAME: PETAR PETROV

POSITION: PRESIDENT OF THE UNION

SIGNATURE: _____

NAME: BRIAN ZEEMAN

POSITION: VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION

SIGNATURE: _____