

Template Motion for Equal Access

This Union Notes:

1. According to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "Everyone has the right to education... and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit".
2. The term refugee applies to any person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.
3. An asylum seeker is someone who has lodged an application for protection on the basis of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.
4. Officially, current university policy on asylum seekers at [insert name of University] is as follows [insert current policy]. Meanwhile asylum seekers are: not allowed to take out student loans; not allowed to apply for grants and bursaries; unable to study in another country; denied the right to work in the UK; sometimes required to wait like this for years while a decision is made as to whether they can stay in the UK.
5. A number of UK universities have amended their admissions policies to allow people seeking refugee protection to pay 'home' tuition fees, or have waived fees entirely. These include: King's College, Warwick, York, Queen Mary's and more
6. [number of students] have taken [campaign action e.g. signed a petition] at [name of university] supporting equal access to university for students seeking refugee protection as part of the Equal Access campaign.
7. The Equal Access campaign is being led by the National Union of Students and Student Action for Refugees and is supported by a range of other organisations.
8. The experiences and insights of students seeking refugee protection have the potential to greatly enrich the intellectual and social life of the university.
9. [details about university life which support Equal Access e.g. international outlook, specific research departments, famous refugee alumni]

This Union Believes:

10. The University should adopt a fair and equitable approach in providing access to higher education on the basis of merit for asylum seekers, people granted discretionary leave to remain or humanitarian protection.

This Union Resolves:

11. To support the Equal Access campaign and work closely with STAR to create a campaign specific to our institution
12. To lobby the university to remove financial barriers preventing students seeking refugee protection from studying here. Specifically to:

- a) Classify all those seeking asylum as home students
 - b) Offer at least 10 bursaries and scholarships to meet study and maintenance costs
 - c) Publicise their Equal Access policies so that potential students are encouraged to apply
13. For the executive team to request a meeting between the Vice Chancellor and representatives from STAR to discuss how this can be achieved.
14. For the executive team to sign a letter to the Vice Chancellor to outline the benefits of providing equal access to higher education to this university, and to liaise with STAR in the creation of this letter.
15. To support campaigns on the national level for equal access to higher education for students seeking refugee protection

