



NUS Urgency Motions

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1. The National Union of Students

Platform:

- a. NUS will endeavour to ensure all unions that are affiliated with the NUS receive benefit from being involved. This includes doing a variety of online events and inviting the unions that aren't regionally close to worthwhile events throughout the year.
- b. NUS will actively engage and support the unions that are affiliated in their individual endeavours to improve students rights as long as it aligns with the values and policies of NUS.
- c. NUS acknowledges that the onus is on campus to raise these points with the NUS at roundtables or via requesting a meeting, as is the norm in union/member engagement

2. Vice Chancellors and University Management are an Enemy of Higher Education

Platform:

- a. The NUS recognises all Vice Chancellors as public enemies to higher education and acknowledges that cuts to universities stem from top down power structures that are perpetuated by university management.

3. TRANS Workers Rights

Action:

- a. The NUS believes that trans rights are worker rights, and workers should not carry the costs for transition. Workers have the right to transition and should be entitled to universal health care and comprehensive leave.
- b. The NUS believes that transition is not a one-off experience, is not confined to the gender binary, nor is it simply about surgery. It is often a social and ongoing process.
- c. The NUS supports the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) claim across the higher education sector for 6 weeks transition leave per annum and believes this should be standard across all industries.

- d. The NUS supports the inclusion of affirmation surgeries and processes as processes covered in full by Medicare.

4. Stop the Religious Discrimination Bill

Platform:

- a. The NUS rejects the weaponisation of religious freedoms as a thinly veiled attempt to further protect the right to discriminate against the LGBTQIA+ community.
- b. The NUS condemns the Morrison Government's prioritisation of the right to discriminate against the LGBTQIA+ community over the myriad other issues that could've been pushed through to the final parliamentary sitting of 2021.
- c. The NUS calls upon the Labor party to oppose this blatantly queerphobic Liberal-backed Bill and stand with the LGBTQIA+ community rather than throwing us under the bus in favour of election clout.
- d. The NUS supports the fight for greater protections from religious discrimination for people of faith (particularly those who do still face genuine discrimination within Australia) but do not believe that religious freedom should include a legislated right to discriminate against other marginalised groups.

5. Stop One Nation's Transphobic Education Bill

Platform:

- a. The NUS opposes the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 and asserts that all students deserve an inclusive, unbiased, and comprehensive education without interference from conservative political groups and lobbyists.
- b. The NUS will continue to monitor the situation in NSW and around the country as anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric appears to be at an all-time high and legislative changes such as this are likely to continue resurfacing.
- c. The NUS condemns Mark Latham, One Nation and the National, Liberal, and ALP members of Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education who oversaw this blatantly flawed inquiry and signed off on a report that would continue to push a dangerous queerphobic agenda.

6. Implement a third gender option for all forms of student identification

Platform:

- a. Australian universities must respect students of all genders and commit to reforming identification systems to either not display gender or to give the option of an X marker.

Action:

- b. The 2022 National Queer Officers will work towards lobbying universities and tertiary institutions across Australia to implement an X marker for their identification system or to instead remove gender as marker entirely.

7. Reconnect with campus queer officers

Action:

- a. The NUS LGBTI Officers will contact campus Queer Officers across the nation to open dialogues on how the NUS can strengthen Queer Collectives.
- b. The NUS LGBTI Officers will collaborate with campus Queer Officers on national LGBTI policy.

8. Affirm the Darlington Statement

Action:

- a. The NUS will officially affirm the Darlington Statement. The NUS National LGBTI Officers will work on assisting Intersex Human Rights Australia in the fight to prevent unnecessary operations on intersex infants.

9. Condemning Vic Police Community Town Hall with LGBTQIA+ Community

Actions:

- a. The NUS Condemns the Vic Policies Town Hall and the lack of transparency about the event and the lack of media coverage being allowed.

- b. NUS reaffirms that the police have had a harmful impact on the LGBTQIA+ community and that they present a threat to many in the community especially LGBTQIA+ People of Colour and First Nations people

10. Committing to ending discriminatory Affirmative Action

Actions:

- a. The 2022 NUS LGBTI Officers commit to create and propose a new affirmative action system that respects and empowers trans and gender-diverse identities for the NUS to be discussed at the 2022 NUS National Conference.

11. No genders for all who choose!

Actions:

- a. The 2022 NUS National LGBTI Officers will coordinate a national campaign to demand that gender markers become optional on all documents and that the process of changing one's gender marker be made easier and not medically gate kept.

12. Looking after Regional Students

Action:

- a. NUS will engage with mental agencies agencies such as headspace, black dog institute, royal far west or beyond blue, To formulate a survey and build a framework to assist rural students in regards to mental health

13. COVID Safe Return to campuses.

Action:

- a. NUS will work collaboratively with democratically elected student unions to ensure a safe return to campus post-COVID for all students with a disability.
- b. NUS will actively campaign to ensure flexible learning arrangements will continue in University settings, including online learning spaces as well as ample on-campus opportunities.

14. Accepting the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

Action:

- a. NUS will use the recommendations listed by the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability to formulate a report on what this means for universities and young people. NUS will work with elected Student Unions to implement these recommendations

15. Barriers to international Student Representation

Action:

- a. NUS condemns discrimination against International students in regards to payment of honorarium for services rendered in elected positions.

16. Typos & Grammar Mistakes Action

Action:

- a. The NUS empowers the General Secretary to make changes to the NUS Platform, in order to fix typos and grammar mistakes, if requested by delegates during the National Conference.

17. National Peak International Student Representation

Action:

The NUS will:

- a. Withdraw itself from the current MOU signed with Council of International Students Australia; and
- b. Recognise that the new national peak organisation for international students being auspiced by the NUS, is the only genuine member organisation based international student peak body; and
- c. Form a collaborative MOU with the new organisation; and
- d. Encourage its current members to affiliate to the new organisation.

18. Gas isn't renewable - no fracking the Beetaloo Basin

Platform:

- a. NUS acknowledges there is nothing sustainable, renewable or progressive about gas - a 'gas-led recovery' is a nosedive towards an unlivable planet;
- b. NUS Condemns the shameful backing of gas projects by successive state and federal governments; and
- c. NUS Condemns all expansion of natural gas.

Action:

- d. NUS will stand and campaign against the development of gas projects.

19. NUS will throw itself into Climate Activism in 2021

Platform:

- a. NUS should organise and promote protests for the environment and contribute resources to various environmental campaigns throughout 2022.
- b. NUS will call a national climate protest in March, will consult with enviro collectives and other enviro groups to set a date, and will work to mobilise students around the country for this protest. This will include producing leaflets and posters for student unions to distribute at O'weeks.

20. NUS will organise a national campaign against the corporate university

Platform:

- a. NUS commits to organising a nationally coordinated campaign against campus based attacks on higher education.
- b. NUS condemns Vice Chancellors across the country who have introduced cuts to staff and courses, and who have played a disgraceful role as key backers of the Liberal party in their attempts to further the neoliberal restructuring of universities.
- c. NUS stands unequivocally for free, public education as the only funding model that ensures higher education remains accessible to students from all financial backgrounds.

- d. NUS acknowledges the critical importance of protest politics in past victories and commits to a protest-based campaign in response to future attacks.
- e. NUS commits to working with student activists on campuses across the country in opposing and reversing cuts.
- f. NUS unequivocally opposes all measures that seek to force the cost of the COVID-19 crisis onto university staff - including pay cuts, redundancies and attacks on work standards.

Action:

- g. The National Education Officer will renew and lead a protest-based campaign against University managements and their unprecedented cuts and restructures.
- h. The National Education Officer will produce and make available a fact sheet outlining the scale and detail of cuts across the country.
- i. While the campaign should be led by the National Education Officer it should also be a priority of all other national and state office bearers, and they should endeavour to produce material specific to their departments (e.g. how cuts to student welfare will disproportionately impact women, LGBTI students).
- j. The National Education Officer and the National President will ensure that the Education Conference which takes place in July is used as a forum to seriously workshop and build upon the work of activists fighting against campus cuts across the country.

21. Net Zero by 2050 targets are the new climate denialism

Platform:

- a. NUS condemns the Liberal Party for committing to an ineffective climate plan that will not ensure global temperatures lower before the tipping points.
- b. NUS condemns the creation of new 'green' industries that are creating more profits for the rich rather than addressing the climate crisis.
- c. NUS does not think any political party can solve the climate crisis

Action:

- d. NUS will release a statement condemning the global greenwashing fad that is Net Zero and raise the demand of 'Real Zero', stopping the production of all emissions now.
- e. NUS will condemn the ties universities have to fossil fuel companies.

- f. NUS will help to promote all future actions for climate justice by endorsing them, committing to help with building work and aid for resources such as posters and paid advertisements.

22. Fighting for free speech on campus

Platform:

- a. NUS recognises the importance of defending the right to freedom of speech for all students, staff and political groups.
- b. NUS condemns the ways the government and uni admins crack down on free speech and understands they are not students' ally.
- c. NUS believes that freedom of speech is integral to student unionism and condemns any attempts to undermine free speech inside our student unions.
- d. NUS Does not believe that free speech should extend to Hate speech or purposeful mis-information

Action:

- e. NUS will support campaigns for the democratic right to free speech excluding where that speech is hate speech or misinformation. NUS will campaign against authoritarian administrations when they attempt to target and intimidate individual activists in line with the principals above

23. NUS must oppose the growing far right

Platform:

- a. NUS recognises that the anti-vax/anti-public health movement is far-right in nature.
- b. NUS opposes the far-right, anti-public health movement.
- c. NUS supports public health measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 like mandatory vaccinations, mask-wearing and lockdowns.
- d. NUS stands in solidarity with frontline workers who continue to face abuse from members of the far-right, anti-vax movement.

Action:

- e. The NUS will promote and endorse rallies like those called by the Campaign Against Racism & Fascism politically opposing the far right on the streets.
- f. The NUS will put out a statement opposing this movement in line with the arguments set out in the preamble and platform.

24. The Case for a Radical NUS

Platform:

- a. NUS recognises that mobilising students in activist campaigns to defend our rights and conditions is its first priority

Action:

- b. In 2022, NUS will reorient to using its resources and time to organise activist campaigns focusing in particular on resisting national and campus cuts and fighting for climate action.
- c. This will include organising two National Days of Action in Semester 1, 2022. NUS will organise a climate NDA and an NDA against the corporate university and campus cuts, and will consult with enviro collectives and other enviro groups to set a date. These actions will set up NUS to begin to rebuild an activist orientation able to resist current and emerging attacks on the student body.

25. NUS opposes the escalating Australia-China conflict

Platform:

- a. The NUS opposes the coming conflict between the US-Australia alliance and China .
- b. The NUS recognises that Australian involvement in conflict with China would not be defensive action, but underpinned by economic and geopolitical competition .
- c. The NUS condemns the hypocrisy of US and Australian governments attempting to cast conflict with China in the mould of democracy against authoritarianism and points to the role of the US and Australia in committing war crimes in Afghanistan.
- d. The NUS maintains that war between the rival imperialist powers Australia and China is at odds with the interests of the working class, unions and ordinary people in either country.
- e. The NUS therefore opposes any intensification of aggression from Australia towards China and refuses to support either side in diplomatic, economic or military conflict.
- f. The NUS recognises the urgency of building political opposition to war and commits to continuing the historic anti-war role of student unionism in Australia.

26. NUS supports the Don't Deport to Danger campaign by the Tamil Refugee Council

Platform:

- a. The NUS supports the following urgent call on the federal government to ease the uncertainty and suffering of refugees in Australia:

- i. Urgently cease deportations of asylum seekers, both scheduled and underway.
- ii. Abolish temporary protection visas and grant permanent protection to all TPV holders to remove the threat of future deportation.
- iii. Release asylum seekers from detention and transit accommodation centres.
- iv. Enact an amnesty for asylum seekers currently deemed “unlawful non-citizens”.

Action:

- b. The NUS will add its name to the open letter initiated by the Tamil Refugee Council at <https://dontdeporttodanger.org/>.
- c. The NUS will publicise the campaign from its Facebook and other relevant social media platforms.

27. Oppose the bigoted ‘Religious Discrimination’ Bill.

Platform:

- a. NUS unequivocally opposes the ‘Religious Discrimination’ bill and any future bills of its ilk, whether state or federal.
- b. NUS affirms its opposition to homophobia and transphobia and supports the rights of LGBTI+ people to access education, medical services and employment free from discrimination.
- c. NUS condemns the Liberal party for its moving of the bill and the Labor party for its support of the bill.

Actions:

- d. NUS commits to materially supporting future protests against the ‘Religious Discrimination’ bill. NUS will use its resources and social media pages to build the protests and oppose the bill.
- e. NUS will release a press statement in complete opposition to the bill and endorsing the Community Action for Rainbow Rights, Rainbow Rebellion and Equal Love Brisbane rallies. It will publish this to its social media accounts.

28. Solidarity with Palestine

Platform:

- a. NUS opposes the historic and on-going genocide, apartheid, land-theft and oppression of the Palestinian people by the state of Israel.
- b. NUS supports the struggle for freedom, justice and self-determination of the Palestinian people.
- c. NUS recognises that support for Palestine is not anti-Semitic. NUS acknowledges that any effective fightback against anti-Semitism requires understanding that Zionism and Judaism are not the same. Jewish people cannot be automatically identified with the Israeli state.
- d. NUS continues to liaise with Palestinian individuals when making decisions on the Palestinian issues.

29. Armenian Genocide Recognition

Platform:

- a. NUS recognises that the twenty fourth (24) April marks the anniversary of the commemoration of the genocide of the Armenians by the then Ottoman Government between 1915-1922.
- b. NUS condemns the genocide of the Armenians and all other acts of genocide committed during our century as the ultimate act of racial, religious, and cultural intolerance.
- c. NUS recognises the importance of remembering and learning from such dark chapters in human history to ensure that such crimes against humanity are not allowed to be repeated.
- d. NUS condemns and prevents all attempts to use the passage of time to deny or distort the historical truth of the genocide of the Armenians and other acts of genocide committed.