**Motion to condemn the University of Birmingham and Birmingham Guild of Students for their actions on 29th January 2014.**

This Union notes:

1. On 29th January 2014 over 300 students participated in a national demonstration in Birmingham for free education, for a democratic university and against a staff pay cut.
2. The body of the protest was kettled by West Midlands police and university security at around 4pm.
3. The students were held in the rain without food, water or access to toilets for over 4 hours.
4. Students were only released if they agreed to give their details to police. When this tactic and tactics similar to this have been used before, they have been found to be illegal.
5. All students who did not give their details were arrested.
6. The arrestees were held for up to 30 hours, and three students were held for over 40 hours.
7. Arrestees were strip searched and had phones, notebooks, and tablet computers confiscated.
8. When released, bail conditions imposed included, banning students from entering any UK university campus, meeting in groups of more than 10, and sleeping anywhere but their registered address and those involved in the protests are not able to freely associate.
9. All arrestees at the University of Birmingham have been suspended until September and banned from campus by the university management.
10. That the University of Birmingham has been condemned in the past by Amnesty International for their attempts to stifle protest.

This Union believes:

1. The police potentially acted illegally in kettling protesters and forcing them to give details under threat of arrest.
2. That police broke basic human rights in restricting access to water, food and toilets.
3. The University of Birmingham has actively used police to stifle legitimate protest.
4. That the tactics used by the university of Birmingham and West Midland police amount to direct intimidation of student activism.
5. The use of suspensions by the university of Birmingham to stifle protest is an attack on democracy and the right to protest, and sets a dangerous precedent for other universities
6. The university has therefore suspended students for not giving their details to police.
7. That Students’ Unions have a responsibility to defend their students and the right to protest on campus which the University of Birmingham Guild of Students failed to do in their immediate response to the protest.

This Union resolves

1. To support to the on-going campaign at Birmingham University for the living wage.
2. To encourage the membership to sign the petition calling for the reinstatement of the students suspended in relation to this protest.
3. To condemn Birmingham Guild of Students for their failure to both support their members in their capacity as a protector of their welfare and secondly for their failure as a Union which stands for free education to support demonstrations on campus by Birmingham Defend Education.

This Union mandates:

1. The LGBT+ officer, as the Royal Holloway representative at the protest, to write a statement, expressing the contents of this motion, on behalf of the Union to be published on the website and other social media.
2. The Executive Committee to write to the University of Birmingham management demanding the reinstatement of the students suspended in relation to this protest.
3. The Executive Committee to write a statement condemning the Birmingham Guild of Students for their response to the demonstration and the subsequent actions of UoB management.

Proposed: Jack Saffery-Rowe (LGBT+ Officer)

Seconded: Gillian Craig, Jamie Green (Vice President Communications and Campaigns). Chris Wall (Academic Affairs Officer)