

# UGM AGENDA

<b>Time:</b>	17:00
<b>Date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2015
<b>Location:</b>	JCR
<b>Agenda</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Welcome</li> <li>2) Minutes &amp; Matters Arising</li> <li>3) Report from Sabbatical Officers</li> <li>4) Report from executive officers</li> <li>5) Defend the Right to Boycott</li> <li>6) Motion in support of #ShutDownYarlsWood and ALL immigration detention centres</li> <li>7) Cleaners in-house now!</li> <li>8) Sell Buckfast in SOAS Bar</li> <li>9) Support Security Staff</li> <li>10) Emergency Motions</li> </ol>	

## UGM MOTIONS – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015

<b>Title:</b>	Defend the right to boycott
<b>Proposer:</b>	Tom King
<b>Seconder:</b>	Adwoa Darko
<b>This Union Notes:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the Government has proposed measures to restrict organisations including universities and other public bodies from boycotting unethical companies in the procurement of goods and services</li> <li>2) That boycotts have been a successful tactic in challenging companies with unethical practices and bringing the end to oppressive regimes</li> <li>3) That SOAS students have supported boycotts in support of a number of causes</li> </ol>	
<b>This Union Believes:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That boycotts are a legitimate and useful means of protest</li> <li>2) That organisations should be able to apply ethical policies in the procurement of goods and services</li> <li>3) That organisations should not be forced, for example, to buy products made with child labour</li> </ol>	
<b>This Union Resolves:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To condemn and oppose any attempts to restrict the right to boycott</li> </ol>	

<b>Title:</b>	Motion in support of movement to #ShutDownYarlsWood and ALL immigration detention centres – demonstration on 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
<b>Proposer:</b>	Tessa Qiu
<b>Seconder:</b>	Anna Perego

### This Union Notes:

- The UK Immigration detention estate is one of the largest in Europe, with over 30,000 people being detained every year.
- These numbers include hundreds of international student being targeted and detained by the Home Office.
- Detentions are often prolonged and unlawful, and the treatment of detainees across the centres has been denounced to be abusive, violent and illegal. Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre has been subject of investigations (see "Undercover in the secretive immigration centre" by Channel 4).
- There have been a number of demonstrations at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre have been led by hundreds of women detainees and ex-detainees. The number of demonstrators has grown from 50 to over 1000 since May 2015.
- Around 400 women are detained in Yarl's Wood. Many of the women detained are very vulnerable, several of them have been victims of torture or been detained while pregnant.
- The experience of detention in almost every case worsens mental health to a large extent, making life in and after detention difficult. The healthcare system in IRCs is scarce and underfunded, meaning that the health of detainees, especially mental health, is poorly looked after.
- Demonstrations that have taken place so far have been powerful, dynamic assertions of a growing migrant rights movement in the UK. Movement For Justice (MFJ) has organised successful protests at Yarl's Wood as well as campaigning for the end of immigration detention and institutional racism.
- People have travelled from across the country to demand that Yarl's Wood and ALL detention centres are shut down once and for all.

## This Union Believes:

- In the importance of the continued movement in the UK to bring an end to immigration detention.
- These demonstrations are an important action to counteract the scapegoating of immigrants. The growing migrant rights movement is crucial for the progress of all society.
- Our sisters, brothers, mothers, friends, fellow students, neighbours and co-workers are being locked up indefinitely for no crime other than to seek freedom, safety or to escape poverty and build a future for themselves and their families.
- SOAS SU should be campaigning for an end to the detention of international students and all people incarcerated within IRCs.
- The constant threat of deportation is an unacceptable state to live under.
- Instead of being able to build a future, our communities are kept in limbo and targeted by immigration raids and ever-tightening immigration rules.
- The student body should support movement for justice's upcoming demonstration by funding transport costs to and from Yarl's Wood on the 12th March 2016.
- This will allow those who cannot afford the travel to attend the demonstration and show their support in fighting against the system of immigration detention in the UK and the underlying institutional racism.
- This money will help draw attention to the crimes of immigration detention, put ideas about solidarity and liberation that are taught to us in classrooms into practice.

## This Union Resolves:

- To endorse the Surround Yarl's Wood demonstrations organised by Movement for Justice
- To work with MFJ to increase our members understanding and involvement in this important movement.
- To pledge (£200/£250/£350/£400) to subsidise £5 and free tickets for our students/workers and asylum seekers on our local MFJ coach to the next demonstration at Yarl's Wood on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016
- If there is no local MFJ coach we will seek to get a minibus of

students/workers down to the demonstration on the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

<b>Title:</b>	Cleaners in-house now!
<b>Proposer:</b>	Tom King
<b>Seconder:</b>	Hannah Slydel
<b>This Union Notes:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That SOAS cleaners - with the support of staff and students - have been campaigning to be brought in-house for nearly a decade</li> <li>2) That over 200 academics have demanded SOAS bring the cleaners in-house</li> <li>3) That dozens of student societies and sports teams have supported the cleaners' demand</li> <li>4) That an independent report by APSE has found that bringing the cleaners in-house would be "cost neutral"</li> </ol>	
<b>This Union Believes:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That SOAS should bring the cleaners in-house now</li> <li>2) That outsourcing is a strategy to drive down wages, terms and conditions, and to introduce excessive and harsh management practices to the detriment of workers</li> <li>3) That bringing the cleaners in-house will bring an end to the injustices, indignities and inequalities of outsourcing</li> </ol>	
<b>This Union Resolves:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To reiterate our support for the cleaners' demand to be brought in-house now!</li> </ol>	

<b>Title:</b>	Sell Buckfast in the SOAS Bar
<b>Proposer:</b>	Bilal Ahmed, 614912
<b>Seconder:</b>	Alex Griffiths, 596751
<b>This Union Notes:</b>	
<p>1) Buckfast, also known as "Buckie," is a fortified wine with caffeine, licensed from Buckfast Abbey in Devon and distributed by J. Chandler &amp; Company in the United Kingdom and Grants of Ireland in Ireland.</p> <p>2) Buckfast is already purchased and sold in either bottle form, or through individual glasses, for those who find the idea of drinking "bottles of buckie" to be sufficiently grim.</p>	
<b>This Union Believes:</b>	
<p>1) Buckfast can be enjoyed safely, and responsibly, both in the manner in which it is consumed, and how everyone else acts as well.</p> <p>2) Students enjoy wine and caffeine separately, making the combination quite compelling when (and critically) enjoyed responsibly.</p>	
<b>This Union Resolves:</b>	
<p>1) The SOAS Bar will sell bottles of Buckfast at a reasonable price.</p> <p>2) The SOAS Bar will sell glasses of Buckfast at a similarly reasonable price.</p>	

<b>Title:</b>	Support security staff
<b>Proposer:</b>	Hannah Slydel
<b>Secunder:</b>	Jonelle Twum
<b>This Union Notes:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That security staff are outsourced to CIS Securities, a private for-profit company</li> <li>2) Security staff have the worst terms and conditions of any staff group at SOAS</li> <li>3) As a consequence of their status as outsourced workers, the schools harassment and whistle-blowing policies do not extend to security staff</li> <li>4) As front-line staff, security face high levels of harassment and poor treatment</li> </ol>	
<b>This Union Believes:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the security staff as much a part of the community as anyone else is and should be treated as such</li> <li>2) That harassment, whistle-blowing and dignity policies should extend to security</li> </ol>	
<b>This Union Resolves:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To insist that our members treat security with dignity and respect</li> <li>2) To retain the right to bring disciplinaries against students who harass security in line with the union pre-existing policies.</li> <li>3) To support any campaigns from the security staff to improve their terms and conditions.</li> </ol>	