



**The following 2 motions were passed during the UGM on:
21st November 2019**

*All motions have been updated to include any **amendments** passed*

Motion #1

Title:	Demilitarise SOAS: end institutional collaboration with the DCSU and Ministry of Defence
Proposer:	Khalfan al-Badwawi
This Union Notes:	
<p>1.1 That SOAS has received at least £400,000 since the end of 2016 to design and deliver three annual Regional Study Weeks for the Defence Cultural Specialist Unit of the British Ministry of Defence, including 'Eastern Europe and Central Asia', 'Middle East and North Africa,' and 'Sub-Saharan Africa.'</p> <p>1.2 That the DCSU was formed in 2010 as the Ministry of Defence's "centre of excellence for cultural capability" in response to the UK's involvement in the invasions and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. It operates under the 1st Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Brigade in the British Armed Forces</p> <p>1.3 That the British Armed Forces have at least 43,000 troops deployed and 20 military bases across the globe, from Kenya and Oman to Brunei and Belize, and are engaged in at least eight conflicts, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen</p> <p>1.4 That the UK is at the centre of the arms trade, exporting over £14bn worth of arms annually (the second largest globally), and hosting companies such as BAE Systems, Babcock, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Rolls Royce, which profit from war and destruction around the world. Furthermore, SOAS has an investment policy that excludes arms and fossil fuel companies</p> <p>1.5 That war and militarism are the most significant causes of the climate and ecological crises, which include the mass extinction of life forms, climate change and extreme weather. The US military is the single largest polluter in the world, with over 800 bases around the world</p>	
This Union Believes:	
<p>2.1 That the British state was propelled into industrial modernity by the profits of chattel enslavement and settler colonisation, and that its contemporary projections of military power around the world continue to build on these genocidal and ecocidal legacies of empire</p> <p>2.2 That SOAS was founded with the explicit purpose of serving the interests of the British state: strengthening its political, commercial and military presence in Africa and Asia, and producing</p>	



knowledge and narratives about colonial subjects and environments

2.3 That British military operations do not operate in a vacuum, but advance British imperial interests in those regions, including mining and arms companies listed on the London Stock Exchange and its global network of tax havens

2.4 That academic institutions are complicit and integral to maintaining the military-industrial complex, investing millions in the arms trade, profiting from and completing research for arms companies and providing specialist training, and hosting careers services that promote industries that profit from war and repression to students

This Union Resolves:

3.1 To issue a public statement calling on all faculty providing trainings for the DCSU to cease their collaboration, and for SOAS to cancel its contract with the Ministry of Defence, and to mobilise with campus unions and lobby the School for this outcome

3.2 To incorporate demilitarisation integrally into the SU's policy by making Demilitarise SOAS a priority campaign for the SU; and to facilitate spaces for collective learning and organising against British imperialism, including military, mining and finance corporations

3.3 To provide material and logistical support to demilitarisation and abolitionist campaigns at SOAS and in London, including, but not limited to, SOAS Detainee Support, Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Community Action Against Prison Expansion, Empty Cages Collective, London Campaign Against Police and State Violence; and to involve them in the above processes

3.4 To lobby the School to provide multifaceted forms of support to victims and survivors of historical British colonialism and contemporary imperial aggression in our community, in particular asylum seekers, refugees and people with insecure immigration status, and people targeted by racist and Islamophobic surveillance programmes like Prevent, including, but not limited to, counselling, bursaries and scholarships

3.5 The SU must take additional action against the participating lecturers, for example, making students aware of who these staff members are and stopping them from speaking at society events*

*The SU is not able to no-platform as it is governed by the charity commission. This was discussed in the UGM, and all students happy to "strongly advise against the participation of these lecturers at society events" instead, as this action is only noted 'for example'.



Motion #2

Title:	The SU to Support the Kurdish Struggle in North East Syria
Proposer:	Roza Atac
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Notes:</p> <p>1.1. Following the withdrawal of US troops from the border region of Syria, Turkey began an illegal invasion of North-East Syria. This has already led to thousands of casualties and the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands from their native lands</p> <p>1.2. The targets of this invasion, which has been characterized as an ethnic cleansing, are the Kurds. However, this doesn't just affect them, it also affects the Assyrians, Yezidi, Arabs and many other groups who inhabit the region</p> <p>1.3. Before the withdrawal the region was run by the administration of the majority Kurdish led SDF, based on the ideologies of bottom up politics, equality for all, ecology and women's liberation. It represented a beacon of hope and stability in arguably one of the most unstable regions.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Believes:</p> <p>2.1 The Kurdish people and the SDF are not only promoting stability and bottom up politics but promote the full equality of the sexes, equal representation in the political and governance spheres, and ecology</p> <p>2.2 The right to self determination is a basic right, and for too long the Kurds have lived as second class citizens in their own lands</p> <p>2.3 The invasion of North Eastern Syria is an attack on basic human rights, there has already been use of chemical weapons which goes against the conventions of war</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Resolves:</p> <p>3.1 To issue a public statement condemning Turkey's actions and supporting the Kurdish struggle</p> <p>3.2 The Student Union to support the Boycott Turkey campaign, in doing so for the union to sign the academic petition.</p> <p>3.3 The Student Union to support the #RiseUp4Rojava campaign</p> <p>3.4 Where the SU supports the Kurdish struggle, it should effort to include other ethnic minority voices as mentioned in 1.2</p>	