



The Following 2 Motions Were Passed During the UGM On:

7th May 2021

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

Motion 1

Title	The University Should Cover Any Costs Associated with Mitigating Circumstances Applications
Proposer	Felix Henson
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Notes</p> <p>1.1. That the average student income in the UK as of 2020 was £1,063.70 . The Metro claims that the cheapest place in London to house share still costs £531, leaving little money to spare for the month for food and utilities, let alone any study-related costs.</p> <p>1.2. That international students already have to fund their own studies and SOAS has a higher than average number of international students.</p> <p>1.3. That despite PEDs, disabled students are still more likely to access mitigating circumstances than most, and disabled people are more likely to have lower incomes associated with the increased costs of living with a disability (of which, this may be one).</p> <p>1.4. Doctor's notes have been known to cost anywhere from nothing to up to £120 on one occasion. They seem to average £15- £25. Medical records can cost around £50 to procure.</p> <p>1.5. There currently exists a fund for this, however it is poorly funded and little known.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Believes</p> <p>2.1. That the Student Union should support students on low incomes' access to university education</p> <p>2.2. That it should not cost students to prove they are going through a particularly difficult period in life to the university.</p> <p>2.3. That these costs may be prohibitive for some students, and that easing these costs may make mitigating circumstances more accessible for many.</p> <p>2.4. That particularly during the pandemic many more students than usual have needed to access mitigating circumstances more than ever and that these circumstances are difficult</p>	



enough without additional associated costs and complications.

2.5. That the university should bear these costs if it is going to demand this evidence

This Union Resolves

3.1. That the Union should create a ring-fenced fund, paid for by SOAS, which students can access to pay for these costs, and any costs associated with accessing mitigating circumstances.

3.2. That the existence of this fund should be made more widely known as barely anybody knows it exists.

Motion 2

Title	To Stand in Solidarity with and Support the Mass Campaign to Resist the Police Crackdown Bill (the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill)
Proposer	Yasmin Elsouda

This Union Notes

1.1 That the government is attempting to pass the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill - that hugely increases police powers and severely curtails the right to protest and picket in this country.

1.2 That this bill allows police forces to criminalise any protest, picket or gathering they deem a "public nuisance" - a deliberately broad definition that gives the police discretion to break up events and arrest people at protests as they see fit.

1.3 That this bill will also lead to further criminalisation of GRT (Gypsy, Roma, Traveller) communities through the updating of trespass from civil to criminal breach of law, leading to increased evictions, property seizure, family separations and incarceration of GRT people.

1.4 That this bill will increase forms of police harassment and abuse, such as the justifications and scope of stop and search powers that are disproportionately wielded against Black people.

1.5 That this bill will provide the legal mechanism for the rebranding of Youth Offending Institutions as "Secure Schools," under the MoJ not the DoE, and incentivise charities to run these.



1.6 That this bill ensures that actions of police officers are above the law during police car pursuit chases due to its amending of the 1998 Road Traffic Act.

1.7 That this bill will needlessly increase surveillance powers, such as gaining access to electronic devices and holding people to obtain DNA or fingerprints.

1.8 That this bill will extend the PREVENT duty, which already disproportionately targets those racialised as Muslim thus making educational institutions domains of surveillance, stress and threat for them, so as to increasingly also target Black young people.

1.9 That this bill will increase the length and reach of criminal sentences, with longer sentences, minimum sentencing increased and mandatory, younger people eligible for whole life sentences, parole boards empowered to deny parole, and more; all of which will likely be used as ways of filling the 10,000 new prison places to emerge from the currently under-construction mega prisons.

2.1 That an amendment put forward by an MP seeks to introduce the Nordic Model of sex work and criminalise certain online platforms used by sex workers, which would lead to the backdoor criminalisation of sex work and would deeply exacerbate the dangers of sex work without offering any meaningful support to survive or exit the industry if needed.

2.2 That there are both historic and contemporary examples of employers using police against legitimate pickets, undercover police within the trade union movement, and retrospective arrest and incarceration of trade union organisers to intimidate, undermine and quash trade union activities.

2.3 That, given this, extending police powers will almost certainly lead to such tactics becoming widespread amongst employers who want to subdue union organisation and industrial action, alongside causing increased jeopardy to our Black, GRT and sex working comrades.

2.4 That the government is likely to make concessions with this bill in an attempt to demobilise the movement.

2.5 That to allow any form of this bill to pass and be enforced would be to abdicate responsibility towards and solidarity with Black, GRT and sex industry workers and non-workers.

This Union Believes

3.1 That protests against this bill have been met with severe police repression and widespread media coverage of police propaganda.

3.2 That many attendees, legal observers, medics, and even representatives of the press have been attacked and injured at these protests, often without any provocation whatsoever, by police officers.

3.3 That this violence from the police is in no way comparable to the supposed disorder that they were allegedly responding to.



3.4 That the police have historically acted to break-up student movement activities with similar displays of force, such as at 2010 protests against the fee hike.

3.5 That different student led campaigns at SOAS have utilised protest tactics to achieve their demands and that this bill threatens student organising and mobilisation and therefore restricts what we can achieve as a movement.

3.6 That protest is a part of learning/education and that the bill therefore threatens collective and alternative forms of learning.

3.7 That such displays of force are a regular occurrence against Black communities, GRT communities and sex workers and, as such, these parallels serve as reminders of what we have in common across movements, communities and industries.

3.8 That as a union we have a policy of non-compliance with PREVENT and that we must actively resist PREVENT's operation on campus and the expansion of its remit through this bill.

3.9 That increased police power does not keep us safe and that British police are a racist institution that should be defunded and abolished.

This Union Resolves

4.1 To publicly support the national Kill the Bill coalition by signing this statement: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxxoAcut2Z3BXU1qeiE824MCXHk7TKIFCD SfgbBoV 1AuQ18Q/viewform> and contributing to national meetings, strategy and actions.

4.2 To commit to resisting this bill in its entirety in solidarity with the wider student movement, trade union movement, GRT communities, racialised people, and sex workers, who are all disproportionately targeted by police powers already and face an intensification of such with this bill.

4.3 To contribute to local organising efforts for the national Kill the Bill coalition by keeping the SOAS student community informed, sharing resources and more.

4.4 To mobilise for any "Kill the Bill" actions organised by the national coalition or by other local activists.

4.5 To stand in solidarity with other Kill the Bill actions and activists, regardless of whether the tactics they employ are commensurate with student union actions or tactics.

4.6 To support the actions of SOAS student organisers, student led campaigns and our local trade unions in resisting this bill.

4.6.1 That we will continue to support the work of the student led campaign resisting Prevent and seeking to abolish the policy, by pressuring SOAS to not comply and connecting with other campaigns working to pressure their university to not comply.

4.6.2 That we are committed to supporting students organising for a clear Cops Off



Campus policy at SOAS.

4.7 To develop political education around policing, prisons, anti-racism, GRT lives, and sex worker politics in our community in service of building solidarity across communities and a mass movement against this bill.

4.8 To collaborate with other Student Unions and the wider national student movement to support the national coalition to Kill The Bill.