

We Must Act Against Anti-Semitism

Preamble:

Antisemitism is often dismissed as a phenomenon of the past in public debate and academic discourse. Too often, people mistakenly assume that anti-Semitism is merely historical.

Shockingly, the opposite is true. 2017 saw a 9.5% rise* in recorded anti-Semitic incidents and a huge increase in anti-Semitic activity occurring on campus.

**Executive Council of Australian Jewry 2016-2017 Report of Antisemitism in Australia*
(<http://www.ecaj.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/ECAJ-Antisemitism-Report-2017.pdf>)

The systematic Holocaust Denial campaign which saw the distribution of leaflets across nearly every campus in Australia is but one example. In 2017, Jewish students were attacked for simply wearing religious clothing, campuses were vandalised with swastikas and horrific statements and accusations were made against Jewish students participating in campus elections.

In an increasingly hostile campus environment, it is hard for Jewish students to feel safe and protected. Therefore, it is vital that the National Union of Students, the peak representative body of Australia's tertiary students, acknowledges and takes action to prevent rising anti-Semitism, both on a campus and within its own institution, similar to NUS UK.

Motion:

1. NUS condemns anti-Semitism in all its forms as defined by the globally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition. This is the working definition used by the Australian and many international Jewish Community bodies. It states that:

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities".

2. NUS commits to working with the Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS), as the peak representative body for Australasian Jewish students, to ensure NUS activist spaces, events, protests and ethno-cultural spaces are inclusive and welcoming of Jewish voices and perspectives, without any pre-qualifications necessary for Jewish students to attend and/or feel included.

Action:

1. NUS will endeavour to provide Kosher food as an option at all NUS functions/events.

2. NUS will assist AUJS in making representations to universities for special consideration and exam requirements due to Jewish holidays and Sabbath services, and ensure appropriate prayer room and religious centre facilities are available to those in need.

3. The NUS National EthnoCultural Officer will work with AUJS to run a campaign/survey, focusing on the effects of anti-Semitism on Australian campuses. This was run with tremendous success by the UK NUS in 2016-2017 and revealed some horrifying statistics.

<https://antisemitism.uk/nus-surveys-almost-500-jewish-students-finds-that-less-than-half-would-feel-comfortable-at-nus-events/>

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/jewish-students-have-told-us-about-their-experiences-now-we-must-act>

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/The-experience-of-Jewish-students-in-2016-17>

4. NUS will formally recognise and publicise January 27, as designated by the United Nations General Assembly, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day; and work with AUJS in either partnering or sharing material designed to educate and commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust.

Motion Carried