

SUARTS POLICY | LOVE MUSIC HATE RACISM

This Union Notes:

1. A number of worrying trends are developing nationally, which have their root in racist policy and rhetoric of the government and media.
2. These include Islamophobic scapegoating, the tendency to “blame the victims” around issues such as gun and knife crime, and a subsequent growth of support for fascist organisations like the BNP.
3. Much of the debate and discussion on crime and violence has revolved around the African-Caribbean community, with the use of phrases such as “black on black” crime, coupled with the idea that many black families are dysfunctional.
4. The ensuing climate of racism has given rise to electoral gains of the BNP, and their attempts to operate on campuses – the BNP youth organiser was defeated in attempts to invite Nick Griffin to Bath University, and Griffin and David Irving have been invited to debate at the Oxford Union.
5. A major part of the battle against racism involves unity and mass involvement amongst the student body. This has been embodied in the campaigns and events run by Love Music Hate Racism (LMHR).
6. LMHR promotes messages of unity and multiculturalism through the various debates and music events we put on. Recent successes include a massive LMHR university tour, “Love Music Hate Islamophobia” events, hosting the leftfield stage at Glastonbury, and a national CD project with NME magazine.
7. While organisational and bureaucratic measures can never be substituted for mass action, the “no platform for fascists” policy can be a valuable tool in the fight against the Nazi BNP and similar groups.

This Union believes:

1. That with the issue of gun and knife crime it is essential that we are looking at, and targeting, the root causes of the problem: social deprivation, poverty, school exclusions and racism.
2. That the anti-Islamophobia policy passed at last year’s conference was a progressive step forwards, but we need to ensure that it is acted on whenever necessary.
3. The basis of the “no platform for fascists” policy is that fascists use the excuse of free speech to peddle racist filth which undermines democratic rights for others, and creates a climate of fear in which racist attacks rise.

This Union resolves:

1. To affiliate to Love Music Hate Racism at a cost of £25, and to organise LMHR gigs and events on campuses in the university in the next two terms of this year.
2. To aim for several gigs on different campuses for next year’s first term, and use the fresher’s fayre to build for said events. To make sure that LMHR is promoted highly within the fresher’s fayre and use this as a way of engaging students in the Union.

3. To institute and implement a “no platform for fascists” policy.
4. To support the NUS Black Students Campaign in their campaign around the issues of gun and knife crime.

Date Passed January 2008 | Date Expires January 2011