

SUARTS POLICY | PERSECUTION AND OPPRESSION

This Union Notes:

1. There is much human suffering in the world.
2. Political conflict and natural disasters both contribute to human suffering, and that there are nations oppressing individuals, and persecuting civilians.
3. There is a serious humanitarian crisis presently in Gaza, Darfur, Zimbabwe, Tibet, Rwanda and many other countries.

This Union Believes:

1. The University has already publicised its stance.
I wanted to reassure you that University of the Arts London deplores violence wherever it occurs and considers access to education, freedom of expression and the rule of international law to be of fundamental importance.

Nigel Carrington, Rector.

2. Students have a responsibility to take action.
3. Students can and should make a difference
4. Our main strength is helping with humanitarian aid wherever and whenever it is most needed.
5. We should find campaigns that can unite our student body around a common cause
6. There is currently massive human suffering in the Middle East (including both Gaza and Southern Israel but also beyond), the Darfur region of Sudan, Zimbabwe, Tibet, Rwanda and in many more places.
7. The number of registered Palestine refugees has grown from 914,000 in 1950 to more than 4.6 million in 2008. (1)
8. The United Nations says more than 2.7 million have fled their homes and now live in camps near Darfur's main towns. The United Nations says up to 300,000 people have died from the combined effects of war, famine and disease. (2)
9. In Zimbabwe, a cholera epidemic has left over 2,000 Zimbabweans dead and another 39,000 ill. Over 5 million Zimbabweans face severe food shortages and are dependent on international aid. (3)
10. In Rwanda, between April and June 1994, an estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed in the space of 100 days. (5).
11. There is also important work that can and should be done on a local level to help those people in danger here in London.
12. Global political developments can divide, alienate and spark anger between students.

This Union Resolves:

1. To organise annual fundraising day for a humanitarian causes such as child poverty.

2. To avoid taking a political stance on contentious conflicts, which divide our student body or cause individuals to feel victimised.
3. To continue it's charity work through RAG, and focus some fundraising on humanitarian aid.
4. To educate our students about some of the areas of suffering through a series of talks or lectures on a variety of world and local issues by inviting speakers from humanitarian charities.
5. To investigate whether the University is recycling resources efficiently and according to its sustainability plan, and to lobby the University to improve such recycling and for a greater use of worldwide education resource charities.

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