

**Motion on the Criminalisation of Student Protest
Proposed by Andrew Tranter RCSU Ordinary Member PG
Seconded by Dan Goldwater – Physics**

ICU Notes:

1. The arrest of the President of the University of London Union (ULU) under Section 11 of the Public Order Act, which requires “advanced notice of a public procession”.
 - a. That no such procession was planned in advance.
 - b. That the procession that did occur did not leave the university campus.
 - c. That the bail conditions subsequently imposed on the ULU president require them “not to engage in protest [...] within half a half mile boundary of any University”.
2. The dispersal of a nonviolent sit-in protest at the University of London Senate House building on 4th December 2013 by the Metropolitan Police.
 - a. That no injunction or eviction order was issued against the protestors.
 - b. That the policing tactic used has been described as “incredibly violent”¹, with police officers “punching people indiscriminately”² and “pulling [protestors] hair and clothes”.³ Video evidence exists seemingly showing a police officer punching a protestor in the face.⁴
 - c. That this dispersal resulted in at least three arrests.
3. The suspension of five students at the University of Sussex for engaging in a nonviolent sit-in protest.
4. That the events described in 2. And 3. have been condemned by the National Union of Students⁵
5. That many Imperial students may have colleagues, family and friends at these Universities. That furthermore, many Imperial students may be jointly supervised by academics at these Universities.

ICU Believes:

1. That freedom of nonviolent protest is a cornerstone of democracy.

¹ <http://libcom.org/news/wave-repression-against-students-05122013>

² <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/05/three-arrests-student-protest-university-of-london>

³ <http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/students-punched-and-dragged-to-the-ground-by-their-hair-as-police-break-up-demonstration-8985397.html>

⁴ See 2.

⁵ <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/press-releases/nus-responds-to-incidents-at-student-protests/?load=6&top=317>

2. That nonviolent protest is a key method by which ICU and other student unions can achieve organisational objectives.
3. That the use of force to suppress nonviolent protest is unacceptable.
4. That it is our duty to protect our students against abuse, harassment and violence, whoever the perpetrator.
5. That the violent policing perpetrated recently against peaceful student protest is a threat to not only students' health and welfare, but also to ICU and student unionism as a whole.
6. That the arrest of a student union president and the imposition of disabling bail conditions represent an attempt to suppress nonviolent student protest.
7. That the use of violent policing and internal disciplinaries by Universities to curtail nonviolent protest is both against the spirit of higher education and a threat to the independence of our student unions.

ICU Resolves:

1. To declare our refusal to be intimidated by these recent events.
2. To condemn and campaign against violent policing perpetrated against peaceful student protests.
3. To condemn and campaign against the arrest of the president of ULU and the imposition of disabling bail conditions.
4. To condemn and campaign against any University's use of violent policing and internal disciplinaries to curtail nonviolent protest.
5. To support and defend any ICU member subjected to violent policing or internal disciplinary for nonviolent protest.
6. Where feasible, to send delegations to protests and meetings called at ULU and the University of Sussex regarding this issue (with an expenditure limit of £100PA).
7. To release a statement describing this policy.
8. To write to the Metropolitan Police informing them of this policy.
9. To write to the president of ULU, informing them of this policy, expressing our solidarity and requesting further coordination to enact this policy.
10. To describe recent events and solicit ICU members' relevant personal experiences via the all-student e-mail.
11. To form a working group to enact this policy.

Emergency Amendment to Motion on the Criminalisation of Student Protest

ICU Further Notes:

1. That a demonstration against violent policing on Thursday 5th December 2013 resulted in a further 36 arrests.
2. That those arrested included journalists, legal observers, and at least one ICU member.
3. That the bail conditions imposed upon those arrested prevent many students from attending their own university in any capacity.

ICU Further Believes:

1. That the arrest of journalists and legal observers clearly suggests that the arrests were arbitrary and not based on the actions of the individuals concerned.
2. That imposing bail conditions preventing students from studying is clearly disproportionate.

ICU Further Resolves:

1. To condemn the aforementioned mass arrest of protestors, journalists and legal observers.
2. To condemn the use of bail conditions to suppress nonviolent protest.
3. To condemn the use of unnecessary bail conditions which prevent students from studying.