

Affiliation with Citizens UK

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The Union Notes

- Citizens UK (CUK) is a charity with the aim to bring communities together to campaign on issues for the common good.
- Citizens UK's objectives (as per their website):
 - a. *"To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged communities of Britain and Ireland in such a way that such members are better able to identify and meet their needs and participate more fully in society;*
 - b. *To assist by directly promoting the more effective working of local and national capacity building institutions designed to pursue that aim."*
- CUK is not a campaigning organisation, but rather a community organising organisation, by working with institutions to train them on how to win campaigns.
- CUK campaign on anything its members want to campaign on. As an example of a campaign relevant to students, in the past few years Nottingham University Student Union have won the following campaigns, due to being part of the organisation:
 - a. Mandatory licensing for private landlords so that they have to meet certain housing standards.
 - b. £90,000 of funding from the Police and Crime commissioner to install 1000 CCTV in taxis to ensure that students are not getting ripped off or sexually harassed.
 - c. Free tampons in all female toilets in University.
 - d. Leadership development of their Sabbatical officers - including how to chair assemblies of 2,500 people and negotiating with the council.
 - e. As well as that, students were interested in some of CUK's national campaigns and became involved in the Living Wage and Social Care.
- The membership cost for our institution would be £5,000 per annum.

The Union Believes

- If the Union were to join, CUK would look at what issues are affecting our members. They would work with the Officer Trustees and students to learn how to build power, do research, take action and negotiate.
- The Union would also be able to get involved in other current campaigns put into action by members of the wider London community, for example, the London Mayoral elections debate.
- Membership would provide training opportunities for sabbaticals and student officers and volunteers. The training would teach techniques to influence others, negotiate, build power and how to organise within communities, whilst also giving skills that could be applied elsewhere, for example, networking techniques.
- Membership with CUK has the potential to help future sabbaticals and volunteers run effective campaigns important to the membership, and help us link up with other organisations providing diverse volunteering opportunities for our members.

The Union Resolves

- To join Citizens UK as an affiliated member