

**SPACE FOR FRIDAY PRAYERS POLICY**  
*Last passed at Union Council 8 October 2012*

**Proposed by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)**  
**Seconded by the President**

**The Union Notes:**

1. That congregational Friday prayers are an obligation on Muslims.
2. That congregational Friday prayers have been performed weekly, during the lunch break, in the Union building for the past five years.
3. These are organised by the ICU Islamic Society and in excess of 300 Imperial College students and staff & members of the local community regularly attend prayers.
4. That in the past, there was a block booking at the old Southside Gym which guaranteed an adequate place for Friday prayers every week.
5. That in the past Friday prayers have taken place in numerous venues, resorting to the Queen's Lawn in the rain when no other location was available.
6. There have been situations where Union space is unavailable, either because of a booking clash or because of construction work. This has meant alternative, and often inadequate, arrangements have had to be made for Friday prayers.
7. There is great difficulty with informing and directing in excess of 300 people to different locations every week for the Friday prayer.

**The Union Believes:**

1. That students should have the right and access to provisions to practise their religion.
2. That according to the Clubs & Societies policy\*, the Union has a duty to ensure that resources are provided for welfare needs – this includes congregational Friday prayers.
3. That the College has the responsibility to provide adequate facilities to clubs and societies of Imperial College Union in line with the Code of Practice it has with ICU.

**The Union Resolves:**

1. For the Union to ensure sufficient space is available for Friday congregational prayers.
2. For the President to lobby the College to provide alternate space, should Union space be unavailable for reasons beyond the Union's control.

\* **Clubs & Societies Policy**, point 10 of section B (DUTIES OF THE UNION AND CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

*10. The Union shall provide a safe environment, free from harassment and discrimination for all Union activity (according to the Health & Safety and Equal Opportunities Policies).*

The above point refers to the **Health and Safety policy**; point 1.4 is of particular interest:

*1.4. Imperial College Union acknowledges its duty to ensure that all relevant legislation regarding health, safety and welfare is adhered to and that resources are made available to ensure health, safety and welfare.*