

GC.06.10.8d

**GUILD COUNCIL**

14.06.10

<b>Author/contact:</b>	<b>Matt Ward (LGBTQ Officer)</b> <b>Kitten Onwordi (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Politics &amp; Modern Languages)</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b><i>This motion calls for the Guild to encourage events that are friendly to all students, regardless of their gender, sexuality, religious beliefs, disabilities, or religious and political beliefs</i></b>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Approval</b>

Motion: Fight for the right to party!

**Guild Council Notes:**

1. An integral part of the student experience is social interaction outside of their course.
2. The Guild supports or runs a number of student nights out in popular local venues.
3. A number of complaints regarding homophobia in local clubs from staff and security over this year have been received by the LGBTQ Officer.
4. Many students are afraid that coming forward with further information will increase the level of hostility they currently face in offending venues.
5. Research by the LGBTQ Association has shown that many LGBTQ students have faced discrimination in local venues in the city of their university, such as being asked to leave or being treated in a hostile manner by staff and security for kissing their partners or 'displaying' their sexuality or gender identity.
6. This kind of discrimination is far from restricted to anti-LGBTQ sentiments; students are discriminated against or objectified because of their gender, sexual orientation, race and/or disability.
7. At the recent NUS LGBT Conference, a motion was passed into policy, encouraging the NUS to lobby student unions to take action against supported venues where such discrimination takes place.
8. Following the passing of this motion, the NUS LGBT has resolved to begin a 'fight for the right to party' campaign on a national level. Birmingham LGBTQ and affiliated University LGBT groups within Coalition Midlands LGBT have also begun this campaign at University level.

**Guild Council Believes:**

1. Although students are protected by law from this kind of discrimination, in reality, homophobia, racism, sexism are still alive and well.
2. The Guild's four liberation campaigns were created to combat exactly this kind of discrimination against students.
3. The Guild should refuse to endorse any venues in which staff or security discriminate against students in this manner.

If you have any queries, please e-mail [lgbtqo@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:lgbtqo@guild.bham.ac.uk)

### **Guild Council Resolves:**

1. For the Guild to encourage events that are friendly to all students, regardless of their gender, sexuality, religious beliefs, disabilities, or religious and political beliefs.
2. For the Guild to refuse endorsement to any venues in which such discrimination takes place.

### **Guild Council Mandates:**

1. The President to write to venues identified by the LGBTQ Association's research condemning the actions of offending staff or security and demanding immediate action from the venue's management in preventing future instances of discrimination.
2. The VPDR and VPW to contact student-frequented venues in town and in Selly Oak demanding that they outline their policy on discrimination regarding the treatment of visitors.
3. The Guild to request written policies regarding discrimination and bullying from all clubs/venues it works with, or intends to work with.

**Proposed:** Matt Ward – LGBTQ Officer

**Seconded:** Kitten Camilla Onwordi – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Politics & Modern Languages

Emma Cooper – LGBTQ Officer-Elect

Kai Weston – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Politics

Claire Lister – Disabled Students Officer

Allan Ssesanga – Ethnic Minority Officer

Daniel Guzman – LGBTQ Association Chair

Robert Unwin – LGBTQ Association Treasurer

Andrew Roche – LGBTQ Association Secretary

John Chivers – LGBTQ Association Information/Communication/Press

Christian White – LGBTQ Association Open Place

Katherine Johnson – LGBTQ Association Open Place

Caitlin Horne – LGBTQ Association Open Place

Sarah Green – LGBTQ Association Open Place (Women's)

Sarah Perry – LGBTQ Association Guild Councillor

Dan Doherty – LGBTQ Association Guild Councillor