

Motion Statement In Support Of Gender Neutral Toilets

This motion aims to extend and build on the Students' Union's existing policy on Gender Neutral Toilets, which works towards providing students, staff and visitors to the university with access to all-gender toilets, alongside the existing gendered facilities. The purpose of this is to make sure there are appropriate facilities available for everyone, reduce congestion during busier times, and ensure that everyone feels safe and comfortable within the university environment. This motion also takes the place of the Students' Union's existing policy on Gender Neutral Toilets, which is set to expire in mid-2017 (at which point it would cease to be enforced the Students' Union).

What Would This Entail?

Our motion proposes that, in cases where there are multiple gendered facilities in close proximity to each other, some of these could be reallocated as all-gender facilities. We understand the importance of gender segregated safe spaces, especially for women, and therefore these reallocations would only take place in instances where they would still allow for at least one set of men's and women's facilities per floor. This motion also upholds the current policy, which states that all new buildings must include gender neutral facilities.

Why Is This Important?

While gendered facilities are satisfactory the majority of the time, they are not universally appropriate. Adding gender neutral toilets would provide a more comfortable space for parents with children of a different gender, and increase the number of cubicles available to male students, effectively reducing waiting times when toilets are crowded – all for little to no cost.

As well as this, gender neutral toilets provide a much safer space for students who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. Access to gender neutral facilities would greatly and effectively reduce the fear of harassment and violence that transgender students often face in gendered facilities, and provide a more appropriate option for students who don't necessarily identify as male or female.

This would also benefit students with disabilities, as transgender and nonbinary students are often advised to use disabled facilities to avoid harassment in the absence of an appropriate gender neutral option. This can cause issues due to increased traffic to a small number of specialised facilities, and can result in accessible facilities not always being available when required.

Endorsements

This motion is endorsed by the following organisations and individuals:

External:

Hareem Ghani, NUS Women's Officer; Tobias Wolf, NUS Trans/Nonbinary Representative; QTIPOC Nottingham; Outburst Nottingham; Trans Working Party Nottingham; Nottingham Young Quakers; Loughborough University LGBT+ Staff Group; NTU Pride; NTU Students' Union Officer Team

University of Nottingham Students' Union:

Lux Huntington, LGBT+ Officer; Moonisah Iqbal & Aqeelah Malek, Black and Minority Ethnic Officers; Emory Cunnington, Environmental and Social Justice Officer; Helen Raynor & Agata Cienciala, Disabled Students Officers; Out in Education; Living Wage Campaign; University

Radio Nottingham; University of Nottingham Feminists; Pro Bono Society; Student Action for Refugees; STEM Outreach Nottingham; AEGIS Nottingham; Heart Soc; Labour Students; Musicality; PhysSoc; Nursing Students; Hide and Soc; Punksoc; Role-Playing and Wargames Society; Quidditch & Harry Potter Society; Latin, Ballroom and Salsa Society