

UUSU Political Expression Framework

As a member-led organisation which exists to support and represent all of our students, UUSU belongs to all students and is committed to promoting good relations on campus.

The purpose of this document is to lay out the minimum expectations of behaviour from all of our members, and their guests, whilst engaging with political debates and engagement under the umbrella of UUSU. It should be read in conjunction with the UUSU Good Relations policy and is written to compliment the values and aims encompassed within this document.

The focus of the framework is to encourage behaviour that promotes a diversity of views and robust, responsible political debate. This framework provides guidelines to ensure that such debate is conducted in a manner in which individuals recognise that others are entitled to have a view, whether or not it is contrary to their own.

Expressing Political Opinion

Typical areas where political expression may be encountered include (but not restricted to):

- Freshers' or Refreshers' Fayres;
- Students' Union Society events;
- Publications/materials;
- Visitors/speakers;
- Websites;
- General Events;
- Advertising for events;
- Classroom discussion;
- Organised debates;
- Students' Union elections;
- Events organised by political parties

This list is not exhaustive. In order to ensure that political expression occurs safely and freely at the University, the Students' Union expects students to be mindful of the following:

- Diversity of opinion: You should expect that you will be in an environment where not everyone agrees with you and/or where you do not agree with everyone; others will not necessarily agree with your expression and their rights will also need to be protected;
- Inclusion: Every member of a community should feel that they are at liberty to attend any event, if they so wish;
- Developing political societies: In the spirit of the Good Relations Policy, members are requested to respect the views and feelings of fellow students and staff. It is important that every society committee take responsibility for promoting good relations within the University at all times. It is recommended that society officers liaise regularly with UUSU staff in this regard.

Organising Political Events or Visits

All events must align with the Students' Union Good Relations Policy. For Health and Safety and planning purposes, it is important that the organiser discusses the intended event or visit with a UUSU representative, prior to the event. They should also refer to the guidance on organising political events. UUSU will be able to provide all relevant guidance in relation to event planning. The University Provost has ultimate authority in approving events and visits on University premises.

Complaints

If there is a perceived breach of any of the above, in the first instance students should write to the President of UUSU: president@uusu.org

Where the complaint involves the President, please contact the Chief Executive Officer of UUSU – d.longstaff@ulster.ac.uk