

TO: Assembly
FROM: Yash Raju
RE: Motion to condemn the actions of the Durham Union Society
DATE: 26 November 2020

Assembly Notes

The Durham Union Society (DUS) has failed to prevent and effectively penalise incidents of racism/misogyny amongst both its membership and leadership. The assembly notes that solutions suggested to reform the DUS have been unsuccessful in transforming the institution into an organisation which protects its membership and the wider student body from discrimination.

Assembly Believes

Organisations within Durham University which fail to effectively combat discrimination should not be supported by the Student Union. The assembly believes that the failures to combat discrimination by the DUS are due to the institution actively choosing to protect senior members who hold discriminatory views over the welfare of its own membership. This assembly believes that the DUS is capable of causing significant harm to students from marginalised backgrounds due to its lack of safeguarding systems including an effective complaints process, code of conduct for its senior leadership and refusal to acknowledge or penalise the discriminatory actions of its members.

Assembly Resolves

To ban the DUS from participating in our events and to strongly encourage Sabbatical Officers not to participate in DUS events. The assembly also resolves to publicly separate itself from the DUS by not advertising events held by the DUS or promoting the organisation to its members. The assembly also resolves to not host events of the DUS in Dunelm House.