

# ULU Welfare

The Newsletter for Student Officers in the University of London

## International Students

We often talk about how culturally diverse the student population of the University of London is. Several colleges have high numbers of overseas students who come to London to study at some of the best higher education institutions in the world. For example, in 2004/05, 64% of full-time students at the LSE were from overseas.

Given the number of international students on our campuses, it is important that we cater for their needs. There are currently several issues on the national agenda that have a direct effect on international students' rights.

The increase in visa charges has put an

extra financial burden on overseas students who already have to pay extortionate tuition fees. On top of this, many banks put very harsh conditions on them when they open a bank account. Even students from the Republic of Ireland, our very close neighbour, have problems.

With so many international students studying within the University we must ensure their needs are being met and that we are tackling the issues that affect them.

For information on International Student issues, contact the [VP Welfare](#) or [International Students' Officer](#).

## Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill

In June this year, the Government published the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill. The bill aims to stamp out abuse of the UK immigration system, with some of the proposals including global fingerprinting of visa applicants, increased data sharing between border agencies and civil penalties for employers knowingly exploiting illegal employees.

The section of the bill that is of great concern to Students' Unions and Higher Education organisations is Clause 4. This removes the right of appeal against refusal of entry clearance for international students. If this bill passes, this will have a direct effect on the number of international students coming to study in London.

Currently, 25% of international students successfully appeal against visa refusals. The Minister for Immigration, Tony McNulty, claims that this bill will create a system that is "fair and works in the economic interests of Britain." However, encouraging international students is beneficial to the British economy.

The bill has just gone to its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the Lords. There is still time to lobby for changes. Get in touch with any Lords who are alumni of your College and express your concerns.

For more information, look at the [Universities UK briefing](#).



*'There goes that excuse  
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## London at your Feet

Is your excuse for not exercising that you don't have enough time? Do you complain that gym memberships are too expensive? Well, it's time to stop making excuses. Instead of trying to make time for a strict exercise regime, why don't you just get off the bus a stop early?

This year, ULU is encouraging students to do some legwork. A brisk walk is almost perfect exercise. Walking will reduce stress, help you sleep better, and can halve your risk of heart disease. Most importantly, it's free! There goes that excuse about not having enough money to exercise!

Transport for London has produced a leaflet of walks around Greater London. These take in many of the great landmarks, parks, gardens and museums in London. This is part of the Walking the Way to Health initiative (WHI), supported by the British Heart Foundation.

For more information on "Walking the Way to Health" visit the [WHI Website](#). Routes for walks around London are available from [TfL](#).

## ULU Welfare Network 2006

The ULU Welfare and Education Network is a forum for sabbaticals and student officers with responsibility for education and welfare issues to come together to discuss issues that affect our students. This year, the meetings, held on a monthly basis, are themed. This is in order to focus discussion, facilitated by an invited speaker.

Past meetings have featured the Terrence Higgins Trust on sexual health and the NUS Black Students' Officer on black students and mental health. ULU will be continuing this format in 2006,

with student accommodation and the rights of student workers and carers as topics for January and February.

However, these meetings are to help you, the officers. If you have a topic you would like more information on, contact me and I will find a speaker. Alternatively, if there is a speaker you would like to see invited, don't hesitate to get in touch.

To suggest a theme for ULU Welfare Network, contact the [VP Welfare](#).

## Ellie Levenson to Chair Multi-Faith Event

Columnist Ellie Levenson has been confirmed as the chair for the Multi-Faith Question Time Session to be held during Equalities Month.

As well as writing for the Independent, Guardian and Observer to name but a few, Ellie has also edited several high profile books. These include "Fabian Thinking: 120 years of progressive thinking".

ULU has approached several prominent members of various faith communities to participate as panel members. More details of the panel will be available soon.

For more info on Equalities Month, contact the VP Welfare, [Nicky Grant](#).

## Trade Fair Update

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The Fair Trade movement was founded in the 1980s in the Netherlands as an alternative to the concept of free trade. Since then, the movement has grown, with the Fairtrade Foundation being created in Britain in 1992. Currently, the sale of Fair Trade products is growing by 20% every year.

Why is this relevant to Students' Unions? Well, this is an issue that many students feel very strongly about. Student organisations like People and Planet and the Student Fairtrade Coalition are actively campaigning for an increase in Fair Trade provision on a national level.

ULU is joining the fight for Fair Trade this year with our Trade Fair campaign. We will be looking at our own environmental and ethical practices and ways in which we can improve them, the track record of the University and working with College Unions to make Fair Trade a University-wide issue.

Having carried out an environmental audit last year, we are now in the process of implementing the recommendations. We are also in discussion with the University about their investment policy and whether it is ethically sound. We already stock many Fair Trade products, such as tea, coffee and chocolate and are hoping to expand these ranges.

In January, we will be launching the Trade Fair Forum, an opportunity for student activists to meet and look at ways of working together. The first meeting is on January 19 with a speaker from Christian Aid.

March sees the ULU Fair Trade Fayre. There will be a wide range of fairly traded goods, from food to clothes and jewelry.

For information, contact the [VP Finance](#).



## ULU Healthy Living Week

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The festive season is notorious for piling on the pounds, lots of food and too much time in front of the TV. If you want to beat the post-Christmas bulge or kick-start your New Year's Resolutions, come along to ULU, RAMSU or KCLSU from January 9-13 for Healthy Living Week.

This year, Healthy Living is coming to a Union near you. Whether you're a student at a small college and want to take part in the football tournament hosted by the Royal Academy of Music or you want to take advantage of membership deals at K4 Gym on Kings' Waterloo Campus, there will be something for you.

ULU is hosting a variety of events this year, including healthy living promotions in our shops, yoga taster sessions, and

self-defence workshops with ULU Karate on Tuesday and Thursday. We will also be turning the Gallery into a no-smoking zone on Thursday. Finally, meditate your troubles away with ULUBUDA on Friday.

There's still time to get involved. If you want to host an event at your Union, or are holding one already and want it publicised under the Healthy Living banner, get in touch with Nicky Grant, VP Welfare or Laura Bigg-Wither, VP Sports & Societies. Publicity will be winging its way to you in a couple of weeks.

If you want more information about the ULU Healthy Living Campaign or Healthy Living Week, contact the [VP Welfare](#) or [VP Sports & Societies](#). Visit the ULU website for more details.




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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.ulu.co.uk](http://www.ulu.co.uk)



*From the ULU Sabbatical Team*

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