

ULU Welfare

The Newsletter for Welfare Officers in the University of London

London Liberated!

London is one of the most diverse cities in the world and the student population of the University of London reflects this. This year, ULU is focussing on the right of our students to live, work and study in a safe and accepting environment. This belief has given birth to the London Liberated Campaign. Our LGBT students have the right to express themselves freely, our students with disabilities have the right to equal access and our international students have the right to appeal against visa decisions.

ULU is working towards a University and City where this is possible. Throughout the year, we will be running events to

promote acceptance and understanding. Behind the scenes we will be lobbying hard for our students' rights.

The input of College Unions is vital to much of this work. These are issues that affect all 120,000 of our members. Working together makes the message even stronger. ULU also plan to work with external organisations that share these aims and objectives. We are already discussing various issues with the GLA, Mental Health Foundation, ULU LGBT Societies Network and the NUS.

For more information on London Liberated, contact the VP Welfare.

ULU Equalities Month

Last year saw the launch of Equalities Month, a month long series of equality and liberation events across the University of London. Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January, will be kick starting this year's Equalities Month and it's going to be even bigger and better than before.

The aim of the month is to celebrate the diversity of our student population through engaging and informative events. Highlights of last year included food fairs, LGB rap stars and interfaith dialogue. We will be building on some of last year's events to develop the concepts, as well as holding lots of new and exciting ones too!

This is not just about students coming to

events at ULU. We want to work with the college Unions to make this a truly University-wide campaign. Whether your Union wants to run events or some of your student societies have ideas they want to use, ULU is looking to engage with all the Union officers. These are issues that are present on all campuses and students care about. They want to make their voices heard and ULU wants to give them the opportunity to do so.

If you want more information on ULU Equalities Month, contact Nicky Grant, VP Welfare. Copies of the presentation used at the planning meeting are also available on request.



*"Yet other atrocities
have produced images
that haunt those who
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Holocaust Memorial Day

The images seen by the allied troops who liberated Auschwitz haunted them for the rest of their lives. These were the images that made the World say "never again". Yet other atrocities have produced images that haunt those who see them. Bosnia, Rwanda, Iraq, genocide has continued to wipe out entire villages and generations, leaving broken families and orphans in its wake.

Holocaust Memorial Day is and International day of remembrance. Last year was the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust and ULU marked the occasion with the unveiling of a plaque by

Dr..Jonathan Saks, Chief Rabbi. This year, we will be adding some new material to the exhibition. The moving collection of images and quoted from both survivors and human rights campaigners is well worth a visit.

Holocaust Memorial Day is on January 27th. More information on how ULU will be marking the day will be available soon. Keep an eye on the website for further details.

The Holocaust Memorial Day celebrations are being organised by the VP Welfare and Racial Equality Officer.

Mental Health Update

The academic year is in full swing and so is the mental health campaign at ULU. We are currently in talks with the Mental Health Foundation on several collaborative projects. These are very exciting and will hopefully be the start of a long-term relationship. ULU is also working with the NUS Mental Health Campaign to raise awareness of the issues affecting students with mental ill health.

The Draft Mental Health Bill is a piece of legislation that has been condemned by leading mental health charities. The total

lack of regulation on enforced drug treatment has alarmed many service providers. This proposed law will have a direct impact on 25% of our student body.

ULU is putting a motion to ULU Council to oppose the draft mental health bill and join over 60 service providers, user groups, trades unions and mental health charities in the Mental Health Alliance.

For more information on the Draft Mental Health Bill visit

www.mentalhealthalliance.org.uk



Rebel Rebel Christmas Party @ ULU

The Festive season is fast approaching, presents need to be bought and parties must be attended. This year, LGBT club promoter Rebel Rebel is holding its Christmas party at ULU. Run in conjunction with the ULU LGBT Societies Network, a night of fun, frolics and Indie music beckons.

Previous acts have included Kasabian

and Kaiser Chiefs and the secret special guest for the evening will be just as exciting.

Putting December 10th in your party diary now is highly recommended. We look forward to seeing as many of possible of you in your glad rags, boogying the night away!

Details to follow...

Mega Raid 2005

It's coming. It's going to be big, very big and it's being hosted by KCLSU. It's the London Mega Raid for the Terrence Higgins Trust. A day-long mass collection to raise funds for a truly amazing charity, the Mega Raid is on November 26th and open to anyone who wants to take part.

Terrence Higgins campaign to raise awareness of sexual health issues and to combat the stigma that can surround HIV and AIDS. They produce many educational resources that are well worth looking at if you're running a sexual health campaign this year.

Did you know that 60,000 people in the UK live with HIV? More worryingly, 1 in 4 of these don't know they have it. In 1997, the Government took sexual health and HIV of their list of national priorities. HIV is now the fastest growing serious

medical condition in Britain. The pressure on GUM clinics is now such that they have to turn people away.

These are just some of the issues that Terrence Higgins Trust campaign on and just some of the reasons they need your support. Registration for the Mega Raid is at 10am. Refreshments will be provided; there is a party in the Waterfront in the evening and a prize for the top collectors!

Please advertise this to any clubs and societies who might want to get involved. For more information, contact Catherine on 0278164558 or email Catherine.atkinson@tht.org.uk



International Student Campaign

The University of London attracts students from all walks of life and from all over the World. There are many issues that are specific to International students, from banking to visa extensions. ULU aims to address many of these issues during the coming year.

Several pieces of Government legislation have a direct effect on our International students. The increased visa charging that was introduced last year puts an additional financial burden on many postgraduate students. The changes to the right to appeal against visa rulings will influence many students looking to study in Britain. Many students successfully challenge visa rulings under current law, which will not be possible if

the draft bill is passed.

ULU is already working with the NUS to lobby against the proposed changes. We will also be continuing the work we started last year on International Student banking. Why should our International students have to have £1000 pounds permanently sitting in their accounts? Why should they be discriminated against? ULU believes they should not be disadvantaged.

More information about the International Student Campaign at ULU will be on the website soon. Any question on plans at ULU should be directed to the VP Welfare or the International Students' Officer.

'ULU believes they should not be disadvantaged.'

University of London Union

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.ulu.co.uk

The VP Welfare is on tour!

ULU is coming to a Union near you! If you want to get involved in ULU Equalities Month, we will be making it even easier. I'll be bringing you the aims and objectives of the campaign, ideas for events and an open offer of help, advice and support from both ULU officers and staff.

Last year, many of your predecessors ran events as part of this campaign and I really want the opportunity to work with

more of you than ever before. Whether you want to run a speaker event, hold a party or put on an exhibition, I'm willing to give you as much help and support as possible. It will be advertised on our website, e-news and feature on the joint publicity that our marketing department are designing as I write this!

Watch out for the email warning of my imminent arrival – my diary will shift to fit in with yours.

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