

1935 It's time to legalise Cannabis

Proposer – Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Seconder – Theo Antoniou-Phillips (LGBT+ Officer)

Union notes:

1. The increase of cannabis related offences across universities in the UK and US.
2. The growing number of international examples of cannabis being legally regulated, including in Uruguay and four US states, legal cannabis use in Dutch coffee shops and Spain's registered cannabis social clubs, decriminalisation in Portugal, and plans from the Liberal Government in Canada to legislate for regulation.
3. That economic analysis of the effect of legalising cannabis has found it could save the public purse £200–300 million per year in the criminal justice system and generate between £400 and £900 million in tax revenue, and that these figures were endorsed by the Treasury in a report commissioned by Liberal Democrat Ministers in the Coalition.
4. That in 2011, someone in the United States was arrested for marijuana every 42 seconds; New York City alone spent [\\$75 million in 2010](#) to arrest and jail people for small amounts of marijuana.

Union believes:

1. That debate around effective ways to reduce harm caused by drugs should be based on evidence of what works, not on political prejudice.
2. That the War on Drugs has categorically failed.
3. That personal use of drugs is not a criminal issue and that every year tens of thousands of people receive a criminal record for recreational use of cannabis, leaving a devastating long-term impact on their education and employment chances.
4. That the aim of drugs policy should be primarily to reduce public health harms and, as such, responsibility for drugs policy should sit predominantly with the Department of Health.
5. That police enforcement of cannabis drug policy has disproportionately affected BAME communities and this is unacceptable.
6. It is not right that every year tens of thousands of people receive a criminal record for recreational use of some drugs, leaving a devastating long-term impact on their education and employment chances.
7. The Government should not miss out on hundreds of millions in tax revenue from sales of cannabis products while criminal gangs collect hundreds of millions of pounds in untaxed profits.

Union resolves:

1. To campaign for the legalisation of personal cannabis use, through both national and local campaign action, ensuring the aims of

campaigning include aiming for increase expenditure on public health education programmes about the risks of drug use to ensure consumers are informed about the risks of consumption and to discourage harmful drug use.

- 2.** To mandate the incoming Campaigns & Democracy Officer to explore possible affiliation to national campaign groups.
 - 3.** To create a UEASU campaign group on drug reform.
 - 4.** To lobby the University to publicly state it's view on drug law reform.
-