

2008 The fight for Votes at 16 passed 17 November 2016

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Union Council notes:

1. That currently over 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied the vote in public elections in the UK
2. That 16 and 17 years old were given a vote in the Scottish independence referendum
3. That the campaign to lower the voting age is long established and supported by thousands of young people across the UK, including the Votes at 16 Coalition (a wide range of youth and democracy organisations)¹
4. The many actions being undertaken by the government that have a huge impact on 16 and 17 year olds, including sweeping changes to Further and Higher Education

Union Council believes:

1. 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen
2. Lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future
3. People who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces should also have the right to vote
4. That our country and society is stronger for listening to the voices of young people and allowing them to engage in our democratic processes
5. That a key purpose of UEA SU should always be wider community work, and a campaign around Votes at 16 presents the opportunity for us to engage with people in our local community that we otherwise would not engage with

Union Council resolves:

1. To mandate the Student Officer Committee to support the campaign for Votes at 16 on a national level
2. To promote this policy to students, local residents and local community groups as resolved in the community engagement strategy
3. To run activities to raise awareness of and support for Votes at 16 both on campus and across Norwich

¹ <http://www.votesat16.org/>