

Support the Fight for Marriage Equality in Northern Ireland

Proposer: Georgina Burchell (Welfare, Community, and Diversity Officer)

Seconder: Sophie Atherton (Campaigns and Democracy Officer)

**Content Warning:** Suicide, Self-harm and drinking

### **Summary**

This motion aims to ensure that UEASU supports the fight for marriage equality in Northern Ireland through working with our student LGBTQ+ societies and local organisations.

### **Council Notes**

1. That in the most recent vote, 51% of Northern Irish MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly) voted for marriage equality, but the DUP (Democratic Unionist Party) was able to veto it by invoking a petition of concern<sup>1</sup>
2. That 70% of the Northern Irish public are in support of marriage equality<sup>2</sup>
3. That Northern Ireland is the only place in the UK where same-sex marriage is still illegal
4. That reduced LGBTQ+ rights in Northern Ireland has led to a mental health crisis in the community that is particularly severe, with 35% of LGBTQ+ individuals self-harming compared to 13% in rest of UK, 57% drinking to hazardous levels compared to 24% in England, and 25% attempting suicide<sup>3</sup>

### **Council Believes**

1. That marriage is a fundamental human right that everyone, regardless of their identity, should have access to
2. That it is our duty as a Union to fight for marriage equality and LGBTQ+ rights in Northern Ireland, not only on behalf of our LGBTQ+ and Northern Irish student populations, but also as a fundamental human right

### **Council Resolves**

1. Union resolves:
2. To support the Love Equality Coalition's campaign for equal marriage in Northern Ireland during LGBTQ+ history month
3. To support the Love Equality Coalition further by publishing a statement of support as a Union, and running an awareness-raising campaign about marriage equality in Northern Ireland
4. To encourage the student LGBTQ+ society and local LGBTQ+ organisations to do the same