

MOTION FOR NTSU TO ADOPT A HUMANITARIAN STANCE ON GAZA

REFERENDA
REGULATIONS

NTSU

NOTTINGHAM TRENT STUDENTS' UNION

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NTSU REFERENDA REGULATIONS 2024

These regulations will apply to all referenda called under the Democratic Procedures Document. Anybody found to have broken these regulations or the rules will be subject to sanctions at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

1. RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1.1 The Elections Committee has the power to add, amend or remove regulations at any stage during the referendum period. These will be communicated appropriately, should they occur.
- 1.2 Anybody found to have broken these rules and regulations will be subject to sanctions at the discretion of the Elections Committee. The rules are defined in the [NTSU Democratic Procedures Document](#).
- 1.3 Only current NTU students are permitted to vote in the referendum.
 - 1.3.1 Due to the timing of this referendum, some courses may end during the process. Once a student's membership has expired, they will no longer be eligible to vote..

2. PROCEDURE

- 2.1 Referenda must be voted upon within 14 days of submission.
- 2.2 A resolution may only be passed by referendum if at least 300 members cast a vote with a simple majority.
- 2.3 If the referendum does not meet the required 300 votes, the referendum will not be valid and NTSU will maintain the status quo.
- 2.4 Voting will begin at **18:30 on Wednesday 5th June 2024** and end at **18:30 on Tuesday 11th June 2024**.
- 2.5 The Elections Committee reserves the right to amend referenda timing at their discretion.

3. CAMPAIGNING

- 3.1 Campaigning must be lawful, considerate, and fair. Campaigners should consider their safety and welfare of themselves and others whilst campaigning.
- 3.2 Campaigners are defined by any individual influencing another to vote.
- 3.3 The Office for Students, who regulate freedom of speech in higher education, wrote to Universities on 10th May recognising that students and staff may hold strong views on events in the Middle East. In this context, challenges exist in balancing the right to [freedom of speech](#) within the law against the need to protect students from unlawful harassment and

intimidation. In this referendum, candidates must maintain an environment that ensures the physical safety of students and staff while upholding the right to free speech within the law.

- 3.3.1 Free speech within the law does not and cannot include discrimination against, or harassment of, Jewish, Israeli, Arab, Palestinian, or any other students, staff, visitors, or any other conduct prohibited by law.
- 3.3.2 Campaigners are reminded that in 2022, NTSU adopted the [IHRA definition of antisemitism](#) and the [APPG definition of islamophobia](#).
- 3.4 Campaigners cannot use NTSU or NTU branding as part of their campaigning.
- 3.5 Campaigners cannot begin campaigning before voting opens.
- 3.6 Campaigners must not harass and pressure students into voting.
- 3.7 Campaigners must not influence a student whilst they are voting.
- 3.8 Campaigners must never cast a student's vote on their behalf.
- 3.9 Campaigners must not use their own personal mobile devices (including, but not limited to mobile phones and tablets) to enable students to vote and must not watch or stand near students whilst they are voting.
- 3.10 Campaigns cannot be sponsored or endorsed by trade unions, political parties, local venues, or any other external organisation or entity.
- 3.11 Campaigners must be current students at Nottingham Trent University.
 - 3.11.1 NTU graduates, alumni, and those who are not currently studying on a course at NTU may not be a campaigner.
 - 3.11.2 NTSU associate members, including but not limited to Nottingham Trent International College (NTIC) and Confetti Further Education, may not be campaigners.
- 3.12 Campaigners who are also employed by NTSU must not campaign whilst they are on shift. Any campaigner found doing this may be subject to HR proceedings.
- 3.13 Societies and sports clubs may endorse a preference, providing the decision to do so is made democratically.
- 3.14 Campaigning may not take place at Society or Sport Club sessions or events unless permission has previously been granted by the Society or Club.
- 3.15 Campaigning in halls of residence will not be permitted.
- 3.16 Campaigning must not take place in NTU Sport gym facilities or changing rooms.
- 3.15 Campaigning in halls of residence will not be permitted.
- 3.17 The Elections Committee will define further physical areas on each campus where campaigning cannot take place if necessary.
- 3.18 The Elections Committee will take into consideration the views of NTU regarding space and campaigning.

4. BUDGET

- 4.1 Campaigners for the referendum are not permitted to spend any money on their campaign. They are also not permitted to use any items or services which other campaigners would not reasonably have access to free of charge.
- 4.2 Pre-owned items that are used for campaigning are permitted within reason. It will be at the sole discretion of Elections Committee to determine whether any items are not pre-owned, and therefore a breach of the regulations.

5. PUBLICITY

- 5.1 Publicity must be appropriate for public display and inoffensive. Campaigners are asked to bear in mind the different demographics of students at NTU. The Elections Committee, with support of the Returning Officer, will have sole discretion for determining what is offensive.
- 5.2 Publicity is embargoed until 18:30 on Wednesday 5th June 2024.
- 5.3 NTSU and NTU can remove any publicity without warning if it feels it needs to.
- 5.4 If the Elections Committee asks a campaigner to remove any online content regarding referenda, they must do so immediately.

6. COMPLAINTS

- 6.1 Any student member may submit a complaint regarding referenda.
- 6.2 All suspected rule breaches must be made in writing to the Elections Committee and emailed to elections@su.ntu.ac.uk no later than 24 hours after the incident has occurred or the concern has been realised.
- 6.3 The Elections Committee will communicate with all parties involved in any dispute electronically via email.
- 6.4 For a complaint to be considered, clear evidence must be attached which warrants the Deputy Returning Officer making a judgement. Acceptable forms of evidence include but are not limited to:
 - 6.4.1 Photographs and videos,
 - 6.4.2 Screen shots of web pages,
 - 6.4.3 Copies of emails,
 - 6.4.4 Staff witnesses (who are considered neutral).
- 6.5 The Elections Committee will investigate any reported rule breaches within 24 hours, between 8am and 6pm, Monday – Friday.
- 6.6 Campaigners can appeal the decision of the Elections Committee via the Returning Officer, who will return a final decision within 24 hours of the appeal being submitted.
- 6.7 For issues of gross misconduct concerning campaigners, NTSU reserves the right to use the '[Code of Conduct for NTSU Members](#)' guidelines, or alternatively may refer to NTU's '[Student Code of Behaviour](#)'.
- 6.8 The absolute deadline for receiving complaints will be one hour after voting has closed.

7. RESULTS

- 7.1 Results will be calculated on NTSU's online voting platform and will be announced no later than 48 hours after the close of voting.
- 7.2 Results can only be calculated once the complaint deadline has passed (one hour after the close of voting).
- 7.3 The count is electronic, so there is no physical process to observe. In this instance, campaigners are entitled to have the counting system explained to them should they wish to.