

GC.10.09.8a

GUILD COUNCIL

29/10/09

Author/contact:	<i>Johnny Davis - Vice President Welfare Sabbatical Officer Group (SOG) Matthew Ward - LGBTQ Officer</i>
Executive Summary:	This motion looks at the practices of the National Blood Service (NBS) who ban donations from men who have had oral or anal sex with another man, or from women who have had sex during the last 12 months with a man who has had oral or anal sex with another man. This motion calls for the Guild of Students to promote blood donations on campus and with Halls of Residences whilst opposing the policy of assessment of suitability to donate used by NBS and promoting the policy of assessment used by the Anthony Nolan Trust as an alternative.
GOG Recommendation:	Approval

Motion: National Blood Service Policy

Guild Council Notes:

1. There is a national shortage of blood - only 6% of the population eligible to give blood donate regularly (3 times a year).
2. We import a huge proportion of blood and its products from abroad.
3. Students do not form a big proportion of the group that donate regularly.
4. The National Blood Service (NBS) policy which bans donations from men who have had oral or anal sex with another man, or from women who have had sex during the last 12 months with a man who has had oral or anal sex with another man.
5. That many heterosexuals who have engaged in high-risk unprotected sexual activity, or who have had sex in high-risk countries, are not totally prevented from donation.
6. The Guild used to have a policy to support the LGBTQ Association and the NUS LGBT in their campaigns to change this policy of the NBS and battle against blood shortages.
7. The National Blood service used to run very successful donation drives at the Guild several times a year.

Guild Council Believes:

1. That the NBS Policy is homophobic as it discriminates against gay and bisexual men by stigmatising a group, rather than assessing the risk of individual behaviour and actions.
2. That blood donation is a worthwhile civic duty and in no way should we discourage people from donating blood at sessions on campus
3. Despite the policy adopted by the NBS, the Guild should not hinder or discourage the donation of blood occurring on campus. Instead, the Guild should actively encourage students to donate blood.
4. Many students want to donate blood but do not know where to go or how to go about it.
5. That the Anthony Nolan Trust's policies, which ask about sexual practice and exposure, not sexual orientation are models of best practice which the NBS should seek to replicate

Guild Council Resolves:

1. That the NBS should be invited to the Guild on a regular basis. To provide the opportunity for donating blood to those students who want to do so.
2. To work with RA's to encourage donation drives at individual halls of residence.
3. To oppose the policy of assessment of suitability to donate by the NBS
4. To promote and encourage the model of assessment practiced by the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Guild Council Mandates:

1. The Vice President Welfare to write a letter to the NBS Chief Executive expressing our disapproval, whilst also lobbying for a change to the regulations to make them similar to those of the Anthony Nolan Trust.
2. The Vice President Welfare and any other relevant officer to make the NBS eligible to use Guild facilities for advertising and for blood donation
3. The Vice President Welfare and any other relevant officer to make the Anthony Nolan Trust eligible to use Guild facilities for advertising and for blood donation
4. The Guild to facilitate any campaign about the unfair donation policy of the NBS.
5. The VPW and all relevant officers to communicate this policy to student groups and help them to organise donation drives.

Proposed: Johnny Davis (VPW)

Seconded: Sabbatical Officer Group (SOG)
Matthew Ward (LGBTQ Officer)