Undeb Bangor, Bangor University Students' Union

A policy was submitted to NUS Wales Conference on the name of NUS Wales by Undeb Bangor. The Steering Committee agreed that rather than debate this as a standalone policy, this fit under the reform discussion at conference as it concerned how NUS Wales works. It was therefore agreed to add the following proposal as a specific discussion as part of the Conference workshops.

The conference will be discussing a new set of rules and procedures for how NUS Wales works. If passed the effect of this proposal would be to update NUS Wales Conference Rules to change all references from ‘NUS Wales’ to ‘NUS Cymru’ and bind any future redrafts to use this name. If reform passes at NUS National Conference and a members meeting all references to NUS Wales would also be updated in the new articles of association.

Submission from Undeb Bangor

What is the issue and how does it affect Students?

The origin of the name 'Wales' is steeped in anti-Welsh xenophobia. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for 'slave' or 'foreigner', originally coined as an insult to the country and its people. For the Welsh speaking community this reminds us of our history of oppression as the name continues to be used in English, including the institutional name 'NUS Wales', without consideration for its true meaning and its historical context.

We believe that ‘NUS Wales’ should follow the example of organisations across the country such as the FAW and move away

from our country's oppressive past by making every effort to not use the name 'Wales' in public settings.

What changes would we like to see in society to change this?

For ‘NUS Wales’ to move to refer to itself in English, using the Welsh name, as 'NUS Cymru'.

See full original submission from Undeb Bangor here

The Name's Cymru... NUS Cymru: changing NUS Wales' name to NUS Cymru

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What changes would we like to see in society to change this?

The society would like to see the organisation move to refer to itself in English, using the Welsh name, as 'NUS Cymru'.

• That the organisation encourages its stakeholders and partners, such as NUS UK, to respect this change and to refer to the organisation in all aspects as 'NUS Cymru'.

• That the staff of the institution make every effort to start referring to the institution, when speaking in English, as 'NUS Cymru', whether it be in an internal or external setting.

What action could NUS, students and SUs take to work on this?

The society would like to see the organisation run a social media campaign explaining the change and the historical and social context behind the change.

How does it impact FE students / Apprentices?

Every FE College in Wales has Welsh-speaking students; these students will appreciate the respect shown by ‘NUS Wales’ by implementing this policy.

How does it impact on black*, disabled, LGBT+, trans and women students?

It will affect all black, disabled, LGBT+, trans and women students who speak Welsh or who are interested in the Welsh language and culture.

How does it impact on International Students, Postgraduate Students, Part Time and Mature Students?

This policy affects all Postgraduate, Part-time and Senior students who speak Welsh or are interested in the Welsh language and culture, and it shows international students from countries and cultures that also have a past of oppression that ‘NUS Wales’ respects the indigenous language and culture of this country.

Is there a particular impact or response for small and specialist institutions?

Does this apply across the UK or specifically in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland?

It applies to 'NUS Wales' however will have an impact on a UK level and will set a precedent that the organisation respects the Welsh Language, Heritage and Culture