



BRISTOL SU
the best student life

The Richmond Building
105 Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8
1LN
Tel (0117) 331 8600

www.bristolsu.org.uk

University of Bristol Students' Union – Just Love Bristol

1. NAME

- a. The name of the Society shall be the Bristol SU (University of Bristol Students' Union) – Just Love Society.
- b. The Society shall be affiliated to the University of Bristol Students' Union and represented by the Societies' Network.

2. AIMS

'Our vision is to inspire and release every Christian student, in Bristol, to pursue the Biblical call to social justice; we will do this through advocacy, action and prayer.'

Our aims are divided into three scopes of transformation: personal, local and global.

1. Personal - As our vision statement demonstrates, our personal level aim is to inspire and release Christian students. This refers to the personal growth we want to encourage in those who are not particularly confident about the place of justice in the Christian faith and our aim to equip and encourage students with a passion for social justice to take action in Bristol. A subsequent personal level aim for Just Love is raising awareness of and participation in ethical living; this is altering the way students go about their everyday shopping and eating habits, clothes purchases, recycling attitudes and the many ways we cooperate with the environment to live with consideration and generosity for our planet. In practise this manifests as the following: guest speaker talks informing students on the issues surrounding social justice, information and training events to enable students to take social action and live ethically with confidence and teaching on the theology of justice in order for everything we do as a society to be grounded in a pursuit to live like Christ with grace, integrity and humility in all that we do.

Just Love aims to be a group where students can also have fun. It is important to note that whilst the Christian faith is at the heart of what we do, we see networking and collaboration with other similar societies as a fundamentally effective and social way to get to know other students and work together.

2. Local - Our local aims are to prayerfully target the social justice issues that are pressing in Bristol. Our primary local focus is homelessness. As a group, we recognise

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the work that other local projects and organisations are already carrying out and we aim to be a recognised body of students willing and passionate to support the work of these organisations, in the knowledge that we are more effective when working alongside existing organisations. In practise, we will pursue this aim by praying for the work of organisations in Bristol, informing students through talk events and provision of information regarding homelessness and ways of helping and supporting local projects by volunteering.

3. Global - The social injustices that exist on a global level often feel overwhelming. As a society, our global aims are to increase awareness of the social justice issues that affect our world (e.g. Food poverty, water contamination, sex slavery, religious persecution, lack of education, refugee crises, war-torn countries, corrupt politics, climate change) and do what we can to support the networks that tackle these areas of social injustice. We aim to increase student awareness of global issues and take action in the ways we can to support projects working overseas, be that through campaigning for awareness, praying for the work carried out. Our global focus is anti-human trafficking. We aim to increase an already existent relationship with International Justice Mission (<https://www.ijm.org/>): an anti-trafficking charity who protect the poor from violence by partnering with local authorities in nearly 20 communities throughout the developing world to bring expertise as they rescue victims, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors and strengthen justice systems.

The Society shall abide by the Union's Code of Conduct, and any other policies laid down by the Union's Board of Trustees.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Full membership is open to all full members of the Union by application to the Society.
- b. Associate membership is open to all other persons who are associate members of the Union.
- c. Not less than three-quarters of the Society members shall be full members of the Union.
- d. The Secretary shall keep a list of all members, differentiating between full and associate members. The Secretary shall inform the Student Services Team of the membership of the Society each year.
- e. There shall be a subscription fee levied for membership, which shall be fixed at the discretion of the Committee being no less than the minimum rate demanded by the Union.

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4. PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. Only members may sit on the Committee.
- b. Only full members may vote in Committee elections.
- c. All categories of membership shall have equal rights of attending meetings etc.

5. COMMITTEE

- a. There shall be a Society Committee which shall be the executive decision-making body of the Society.
- b. The President, Secretary, Treasurer and Equality Officer of the Committee shall be full members of the Union.
- c. The Committee shall be responsible for the general and financial policy of the Society, subject to such rules as laid out in the Union's Constitution and Byelaws, and any rulings made by the Union.
- d. Quoracy for Committee meetings shall be set at 50% of the post filled positions plus one.
- e. All Committee meetings must be minuted by the Secretary (or other Committee member if they are unavailable) and the minutes circulated to the Committee before the next committee meeting.
- f. The Committee is comprised of:

President and optional Co-President:

The candidate with the highest number of votes in the President election becomes President. Once this role is filled, anyone (except the new President) may run for the role of Co-president, with the candidate with the highest number of votes in this election becoming Co-president. Only one of the Co-presidents will be recorded as President for the purposes of reaffiliation. Their responsibilities include managing the rest of committee, encouraging the rest of committee to fulfil their potential, communicating vision for the term and year ahead, organizing committee vision days, overseeing key external relationships (churches, CU), overseeing key internal relationships (Just Love staff worker, local advisors, prayer partners), organizing and presenting at major events and overseeing all Just Love activities (without dominating them).

Secretary:

Organises minutes and agendas, makes room-bookings, manages social media and the email account, supports other projects and special events when needed.

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Local Coordinator:

Maintains relationships with local churches/charities/outreaches at which students volunteer, works to inspire students across Christian student body to engage with local volunteering (events, blog posts, notices), has a strong understanding of the theology of social justice, coordinates training for volunteers.

Global Coordinator:

Provides vision for group's response to issues of global injustice, runs awareness raising or fundraising events/campaigns related to global injustice, helps students to engage with partner charities' campaigns (e.g. IJM, Tearfund), has a strong understanding of the theology of social justice.

Personal Coordinator:

Curates the group's blog by editing posts and recruiting writers, works to encourage Christian student body to adopt rhythms of justice (e.g. ethical shopping and living) into their everyday lives, has a strong understanding of the theology of social justice.

Treasurer:

Manages every transaction related to the group's activities; recording income and outgoings and managing the finances from any campaigns the group runs with integrity.

Equality Officer:

Responsible for ensuring all students feel welcome, accepted and supported. Identifies barriers to participation in group events and activities and actively seeks removes such barriers.

Social Media Coordinator:

Responsible for the upkeep of the Just Love Bristol social media accounts, including promoting events. Generates graphic designs or videos for events and campaigns throughout the year.

6. FINANCIAL

- a. The Treasurer of the Society shall be a full member of the Union and not in their final year at the University. However, if given approval by the Union, a final year student may take the position.
- b. All financial arrangements must be made in accordance with current instructions to Society Treasurers, as set down by the Union.

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c. The Bristol SU Union Affairs Officer, Sport and Student Development Officer and Director of Finance shall jointly be empowered to issue financial instructions on behalf of the Society if:

- (i) the affiliated student group ceases to be affiliated
- (ii) there are concerns that the funds are being managed in breach of the provision set out in the Byelaws
- (iii) the group ceases to exist or there are breaches of any minimum standards set out in Union policy

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. There shall be an Annual General Meeting once per annum, and this shall be during Teaching Block 2.
- b. Notice of such meetings must be sent to the Society's membership via email with at least 14 days' notice. An agenda must be sent out with at least 7 days' notice.
- c. Quorum of such meetings shall be set at twice the Committee size plus one.
- d. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by either the Committee or 5% of the membership of the Society by application to the Committee. An EGM shall be called as specified on the application, but at least 7 days' notice shall be given.

8. ELECTIONS

Elections shall be held at the Annual General Meeting to elect officers of the Committee for the following annual session. Officers can only be removed from their posts by an EGM or AGM. Nominations must be received 7 days in advance.

- a. If Committee positions are left unfilled after the AGM, then the Committee shall have the power to co-opt Society members onto the Committee to fill the vacant posts. However, co-opted Committee members are not regarded as full Committee members and can be removed by the Committee at any time.
- b. Voting shall be by first-past-the-post and shall be conducted by a show of hands if the position is uncontested, having asked the candidate to leave the AGM room. If the position is contested, then ballot papers shall be issued to those voting and a count taken of the ballot papers by a Committee member. In the event of a tie, the outgoing President shall have the deciding vote.

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9. AFFILIATIONS

- a. The Society shall affiliate to external bodies only where membership of those bodies is essential to the fulfilment of the core aims, and only with the prior agreement of the Union.

10. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- a. Any amendment to this constitution shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present at a properly constituted General Meeting.
- b. All such amendments shall become valid only after approval by the Union.

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