

Cardiff University Students' Union

Undeb Myfyrwyr Prifysgol Caerdydd

Anti-Lad Culture Policy

Passed by Student Senate 03/12/2013

Issue:

- Lad culture can be defined as a pack mentality resulting in 'banter' that is often sexist, misogynistic and homophobic. Heavy alcohol consumption is often involved. It is a sexualised culture that often involves the objectification of women and rape-supportive attitudes (adapted from That's What She Said Report, NUS, 2013)
- There have been multiple instances of lad culture within Cardiff University, and individuals have reported feeling pressured into participating in sexist/homophobic 'banter' and heavy drinking.
- Lad culture encourages gender-, sexuality- and rape-based humour, and this can be extremely hurtful.
- It is not the sole preserve of men – both men and women propagate lad culture and both men and women are affected by it. This motion is not intended to be anti-men.

Benefit:

- The aim of the Union should be to create a safe, positive and empowering environments for all student
- No student should feel unsafe, bullied or harassed
- Myths about sexual violence and rape must be challenged
- Gender- and sexuality-based harassment can be extremely upsetting and create a negative environment
- Rape jokes can be triggering for students and again create a negative environment

Action:

- Mandate officers to follow NUS recommendations resulting from the consultation on Lad Culture
- Mandate officers to carry out gender equity sessions (including topics such as the Zero Tolerance policy, sexual violence etc) for sports teams and societies
- Produce guidance educating student union staff and academic staff (including personal tutors) about sexual violence, including recommendations on supporting students and information about further resources
- Campaign against sexism, homophobia and myths around sexual violence in conjunction with the CWA and LGBT+ association
- Campaign against lad culture and the websites/companies that promote it such as UniLad and 'Spotted' Facebook pages
- Support Reclaim the Night marches held in Cardiff
- Continue to publicise the Zero Tolerance policy, and train all student union staff – including temporary staff – in the Zero Tolerance policy



- Ban songs that Student Senate and/or the officer team feel promote sexual violence, misogyny or homophobia from being played at Student Union club nights or on Xpress Radio

Submitted by: Emma Carragher

