



## CONFENSIWN EWROPEAIDD Y MYFYRWYR 34 **EUROPEAN STUDENTS' CONVENTION 34**

With sponsorship from:



# READER

CAERDYDD – CYMRU, DU / CARDIFF – WALES, UK  
10-13 HYDREF 2017 / 10-13 OCTOBER 2017

## **“SECURING OUR FUTURE”**

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Use our hashtag: #ESC34

# Introduction

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On behalf of the student movement in Wales, I am very happy to indeed to welcome you to our capital city for this **European Students' Convention.**

We are grateful for the opportunity to play our part in bringing student representatives from across the European Higher Education Area together for ESC 34.

We are excited to be hosting ESC 34 here in Cardiff at what is a crucial time for our country and for Europe. We know that there are, for better or worse, many changes and challenges ahead of us. We are the people whose futures depend on the decisions that are made by those in power today. It is incumbent upon us, as representatives but also as citizens, to use our platforms and make our voices heard; to speak up for **the future we want. That's what ESC 34 is all** about and I am so looking forward to joining you in discussions about our shared future. My colleague Carmen Smith, our deputy president, writes a little more on page 15 about why this is so important. By working together, we can **turn our challenges into opportunities. It won't be easy, but we're up for it.**

I wish you a warm welcome to Wales and hope that you will have an informative, fruitful, and enjoyable stay with us.

**Ellen Jones**  
NUS Wales President

# Introduction

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On behalf of ESU, I am honoured to welcome you to ESC 34 in Cardiff. We are grateful to NUS Wales for their work in organising this event, and know they will be excellent hosts.

Students need to actively participate in securing our future. In a constantly-changing world, politicians and older generations respond with defensive choices such as shaping education into pre-defined career paths and letting business dictate curricula. But progressive educational policies are built on inclusiveness, accessibility, equity, and trust across borders. More academic freedom and critical thinking is required, not less.

Our future is not shaped by European decision-making alone. An inclusive Europe must also reach outside its borders. That is why I have chosen to participate as a leader **in the ASEF student's** forum. Here, ESU will lead group discussions, granting us power to define Asian-European cooperation in education. ESC 34 in Wales provides an excellent arena to build bridges between European students and tighten the bonds within our organisation. It excites us as a newly elected team to interact with all participants. We are sure we will leave even more motivated to take the lead in securing our future.

Greetings from Singapore,

**Helge Schwitters**  
ESU President

# Agenda

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## TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017

19.00-20.00 Welcome speeches and dinner  
Urdd centre

## WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2017

06.30-07.30 Breakfast  
Urdd centre

07.30 Bus to the Principality Stadium  
Bute Place, Cardiff Bay

08.45-09.00 Opening remarks  
President's Lounge

09.00-10.30 Extraordinary Board Meeting  
President's Lounge

10.30-11.15 Protecting minority languages  
St David's Lounge

11.15-11.30 Break

11.30-12.30 Keynote speech and Q&A: Welsh Cabinet  
Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams  
President's Lounge

12.30-13.30 Lunch  
President's Lounge

13.30-15.30 Bologna with Student Eyes  
St David's Lounge

15.30-17.00 Gender Session  
St David's Lounge

17.00 Bus to the Urdd centre  
Gate 3/4, Principality Stadium

19.00 Dinner  
Urdd centre

21.00-23.00 Intercultural evening  
Urdd centre

## THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2017

06.30-07.30 Breakfast  
Urdd centre

07.30 Bus to the Principality Stadium  
Bute Place, Cardiff Bay

08.30-10.00 **Women's and other meetings**  
**Women's meeting** President's Lounge / Other  
meetings – Suite 022

10.00-11.00 BM73 Preparations: Implementing the  
new membership strategy  
St David's Lounge Parallel session 1(a)

- 10.00-11.00 BM73 Preparations: New priorities – new outline? ESU Strategic Priorities  
President's Lounge Parallel session 1(b)
- 11.00-12.00 BM73 Preparations: ESU policy paper on living conditions outside HEIs  
President's Lounge Parallel session 2(a)
- 11.00-12.00 BM73 Preparations: ESU finance – everything you need to know  
St David's Lounge Parallel session 2(b)
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch  
President's Lounge
- 13.00-14.00 Ramifications of the UK leaving the EU  
President's Lounge
- 14.00-15.00 Sustainable development in HE  
St David's Lounge
- 15.00-16.00 Open organising spaces  
Large space St David's Lounge / Small space Suite 022 Parallel session 3(a)
- 15.00-16.00 Bologna with Student Eyes – part 2  
President's Lounge Parallel session 3(b)
- 16.00-17.00 Current update on Bologna and EU affairs  
President's Lounge Parallel session 4(a)

- 16.00-17.00    Creating a vision for perfect post-16 education  
St David's Lounge    Parallel session 4(b)
- 17.00-17.10    All delegates photocall  
Gate 3/4, Principality Stadium
- 17.15            Bus back to the Urdd centre  
Gate 3/4, Principality Stadium
- 19.00            Dinner  
Urdd centre
- 20.15            Walk to the Welsh Cultural Evening  
Urdd centre
- 21.00-23.00    Welsh Cultural Evening  
The Angel Hotel, Castle Street

# Accommodation and transport

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## THE HOSTEL



Accommodation will be provided for the duration of your stay in Cardiff at the [Urdd Gobaith Cymru Cardiff Sleepover](#) located in world-famous Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay. Breakfast and dinner provided.

**Address:** Bute Place, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF10 5AL

Please note: you will not be able to enter the hostel from inside the Wales Millennium Centre. The hostel has a dedicated entrance of its own at the side of the building – look out for the orange and yellow triangles!

## THE VENUE



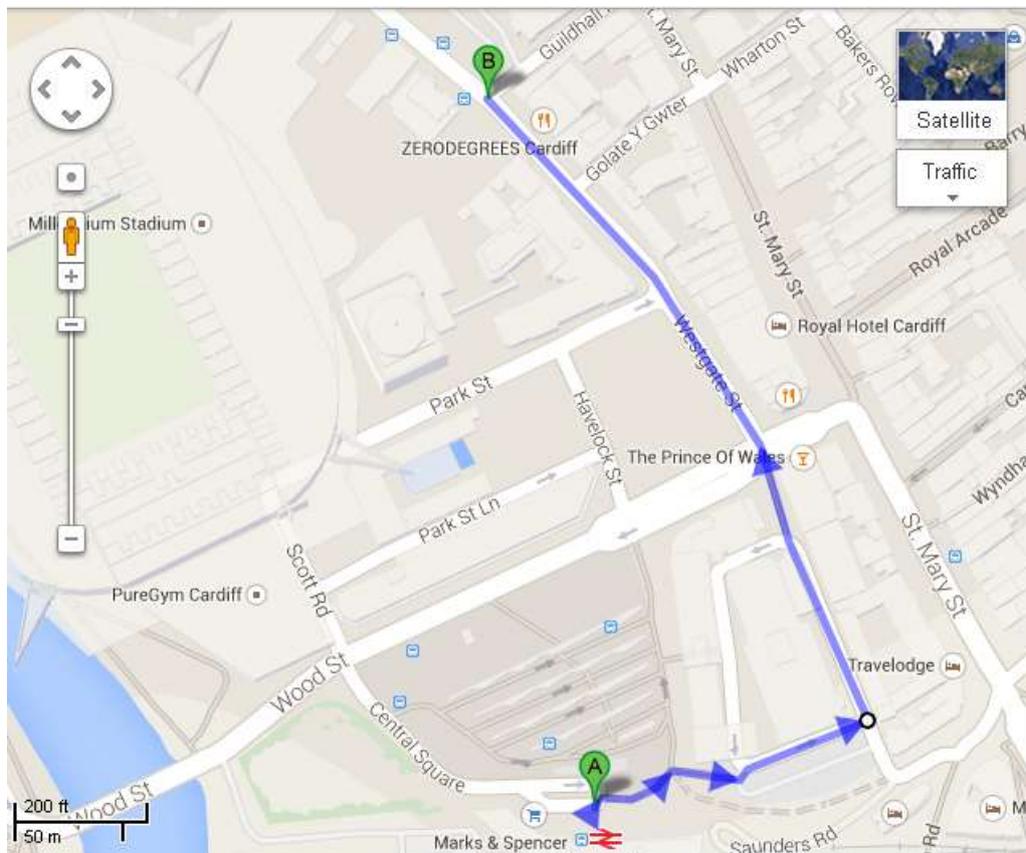
The Convention itself will take place in the iconic [Principality Stadium](#) in the centre of Cardiff.

**Address:** Westgate St, Cardiff, CF10 1NS

Transport back and forth from the hostel and the venue will be provided at the beginning and end of the day. Lunch will be provided at the venue.

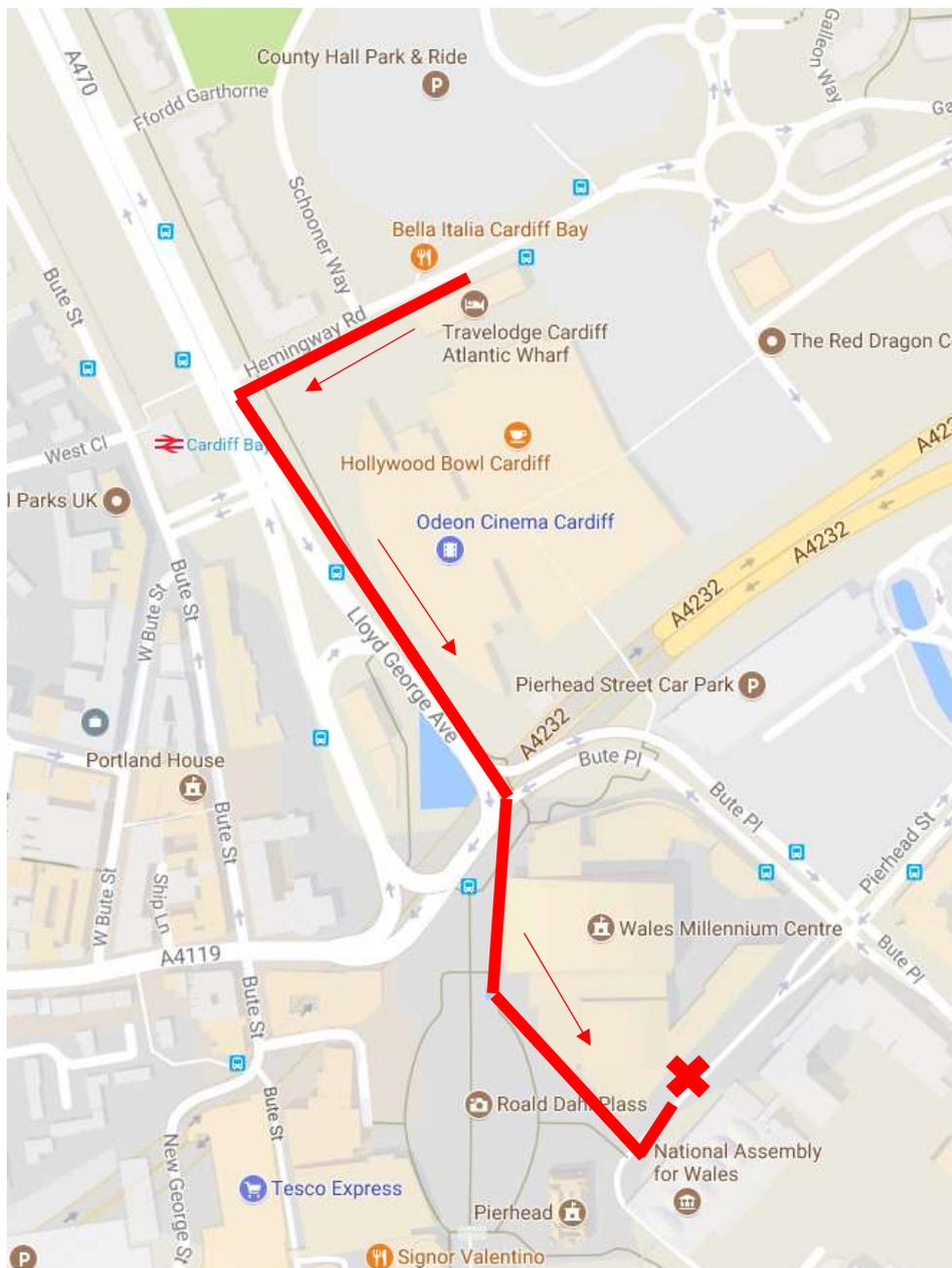
Please note that it is your responsibility to make sure that you catch the bus that we have provided to transport you from the accommodation to the venue. If you fail to catch the bus, it is your responsibility to find your own way to the venue. We will not be in a position to reimburse you. Should this occur, a map showing how to get to the venue from Cardiff Central train station is provided below.

### ACCESS TO THE PRINCIPALITY STADIUM (GATE 4) FROM CARDIFF CENTRAL TRAIN STATION



## GETTING TO CARDIFF

If you are flying, the nearest airport is [Cardiff Airport](#). From there, you will be able to catch the [T9 Cardiff Airport Express Shuttle bus service](#). You can get a one-way ticket for 7 EUR or a return ticket for 10 EUR. Ask the driver to disembark the bus at County Hall. It takes around 10 minutes to walk from County Hall to the Urdd Gobaith Cymru accommodation. Directions are provided below.



If you are flying into London, you will need to make your way to Paddington train station, from where you will be able to catch a direct train to Cardiff Central Station. At Cardiff Central, you should catch a train to Cardiff Queen Street, and then from Cardiff Queen Street to Cardiff Bay. On the map on the previous page, you can see Cardiff Bay train station just opposite Hemingway Road; you should follow the route down Lloyd George Avenue to the accommodation.

If you are flying into Bristol Airport, catch the [A1 bus](#) from the airport, and alight at Bristol Temple Meads train station. A student return ticket will cost £7. The A1 bus departs the airport at least every 10 minutes during most of the daytime. At Bristol Temple Meads train station, you will be able to catch a direct train to Cardiff Central and from there, follow the instructions above to get to Cardiff Bay and your accommodation.

We strongly encourage you to plan your journey in advance and to check all details before your departure. Neither NUS Wales nor ESU will be able to refund you for the cost of tickets if they are lost or if you miss a train, plane, or bus, etc. It is your responsibility to arrange your return travel to the accommodation and to ensure that you leave enough time to be where you need to be.

# About your hosts

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## NUS WALES

We represent 8 higher education **students' unions** and 14 **further education students' unions** across Wales – **that's** over 250,000 students. We **support students' unions, and** defend and promote the rights of students by working with politicians, the media, institutions, and other colleagues in the Welsh education sector. We work closely with our colleagues in NUS UK, NUS Scotland, and NUS-USA. As well as our 3 full-time officers, we have a staff team of 12.

## CARDIFF

Cardiff has been the capital city of Wales since 1955. It has an incredibly rich history, stretching back to the Neolithic period. Cardiff became a key city during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, with thanks to the docklands of what is now Cardiff Bay. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Cardiff became home to many national institutions and its population increased hugely. Today, it is home to over 300,000 people, and the **surrounding metropolitan area is home to over 1/3 of all** residents of Wales.

## WALES

Wales is a country in the United Kingdom. Politically, it is somewhat autonomous, with a parliament and government of its own. It is a bilingual country, where the native language, Welsh, shares official status with English. Welsh is

spoken by around a fifth of the people of Wales, and it is taught widely in Welsh schools.

Wales is famous all over the world for its rich culture, which includes the cynfeirdd – medieval poets some of whose work survives to this day. The Mabinogion – a series of prose literature – are known to be the earliest prose stories of the literature of all of Great Britain. More recently, you may be familiar with such names as Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones, Catherine Zeta-Jones, The Stereophonics, Anthony Hopkins, Michael Sheen, Ioan Gruffudd, the Manic Street Preachers, and Katherine Jenkins, who have all made it big.

You may also know our small country for its beauty – its great mountains such as Snowdon in the north, or Pen-y-Fan in the south, its beautiful coastline, such as the Gower coast, the **UK's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**.

We could not write about Wales without also mentioning our national sport – rugby. Rugby games are extremely important to Wales and much attention is given to the Six Nations and to our Autumn International fixtures. The Principality Stadium, venue for ESC 34, is the home stadium of the Welsh national side.

We are a small but proud country. Our culture is close to our hearts, and our communities mean the world to us. Our history over many centuries has made us the country we are today, and we are proud to share it with you. Ours is a welcoming, open, and tolerant European country, and we hope that you feel at home here in Wales, however long you stay.

Croeso i Gymru – welcome to Wales!

# Useful Welsh phrases

CYMRAEG	ENGLISH
Bore da, shwmae?	Good morning, how are you?
Hwyl fawr!	Goodbye!
Pa ffordd i Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru?	How do I get to the Wales Millennium Centre?
Os gwelwch yn dda	Please
Pa ffordd i ganol y ddinas?	How do I get to the city centre?
Oes arhosfan bws gerllaw?	Is there a bus-stop nearby?
<b>Ble mae'r orsaf drenau?</b>	<b>Where's the train station?</b>
Allwch chi fy helpu?	Can you help me?
<b>'Dw i eisiau ymarfer fy Nghymraeg</b>	I want to practise my Welsh
Mae angen gwasanaethau argyfwng arna i	I need the emergency services
Oes rhywle i fwyta yn agos i yma?	Is there somewhere near here to eat?
Sut beth fydd y tywydd heddiw?	<b>What's the weather going to be like today?</b>
<b>'Dw i angen dod o hyd i Stadiwm y Principality</b>	I need to find the Principality Stadium

Don't know how to pronounce them? Find a Welsh speaker to teach you!

# About ESU/ESC

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## **ESU – EUROPEAN STUDENTS’ UNION**

ESU is the umbrella organisation of 45 National Unions of **Students (NUS) from 38 countries**. The NUS’ are open to all students in their respective country regardless of political persuasion, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, sexual orientation or social standing. Our members are also student-run, autonomous, and representative, and operate according to democratic principles. The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic, and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Bologna Follow Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO. Through its members, ESU represents over 15 million students in Europe.

## **ESC 34 – EUROPEAN STUDENTS’ CONVENTION**

European Students’ Conventions are an opportunity for **student representatives from all the NUS’ to come together** to learn, to discuss, to share ideas, and to get to know one another. The theme for ESC 34 in Cardiff is Securing our Future, and delegates will be discussing the future of education across the European Higher Education Area – from language to environment, and **from ‘Brexit’ to Bologna**. This is an opportunity to come together to discuss and shape our shared future, and to cement our common commitment to cooperation which fosters educational, **social, economic, and cultural advancement for all our NUS’** and the students we represent.

# Securing our future

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By **CARMEN SMITH**  
**NUS Wales Deputy President**

Welcome to Wales – a beautiful place I get the privilege to call my home.

I am delighted to welcome you to the 34<sup>th</sup> European Students' **Convention with the theme of 'Securing Our Future'**.

At NUS Wales we believe in an education system that is inclusive and accessible to all. Just before our most recent UK General Election we surveyed students in Wales on what they believed a future Wales should look like. Students told us they wanted to see a welcoming, tolerant and inclusive Wales.

This vision, shared by students across Wales, is something that we are deeply passionate about and has driven our work on lobbying around Brexit.

**We believe EU students aren't bargaining chips, that student mobility needs protecting for transformational experiences, and we must be welcoming internationally.**

We live in a turbulent time with decisions across the globe being made that are set to unbalance **the paths of students'** futures.

That is why such gatherings like this are crucial for us as student leaders to come together collectively; to shape what kind of world future generations will be living in.

This Convention will focus on debates and discussions on topics that look to the future of the European Higher Education Area.

From the next stages in Bologna and changes to student mobility; to sustainability in Higher Education institutions and studying in minority languages.

This space is for us to discuss, debate and challenge ideas. As 45 National Unions of Students from 38 countries; coming together as one voice of 15 million students is powerful.

**Let's secure our future.**

# Poverty Commission

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By SHAKIRA MARTIN  
NUS UK President

The theme for the European **Students' Convention** this year is **'Securing our Future'**.

This will be quite a timely intervention: for our generation, the future has never looked less secure. With the uncertainty of Brexit, it really is so crucial that we stand together.

I am committed to maintaining our links across Europe, and will be campaigning to protect the rights and mobility of our international students.

These students have such a positive cultural impact on UK campuses and students as well as the wider community: we must learn to value that and fight to preserve it.

I am proud that so many students from across the world wish to study here. However, our system as it stands is not accessible to everyone.

When I was elected, I talked about the barriers faced by working class young people to accessing education, and the struggles we face to excel once we get here.

**I'm talking about apprentices like Hannah: 19 years old with a two-year-old, living in council housing and left with £30 a week to care for herself and her child.**

That is why this year I have launched a Poverty Commission - a two-year project will reach out to forgotten corners of our society and students from all areas of education.

This is a research project, yes, but it is also a tool that we can use to win. Above all, I believe we must take the future into our hands.

We are the future – **it's time to secure it.**

# Brexit

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By AMATEY DOKU  
NUS UK Vice President (HE)

Leaving the EU creates a great deal of uncertainty around the position of UK students studying in EU countries and vice versa. It also threatens access to European research funding and could damage long standing academic collaborations.

Student mobility is supported through the Erasmus+ scheme; it is this initiative that provides the funds for students to take advantage of this opportunity. Under the current arrangements citizens who move from one member state to another have the same access to education as a citizen of that country.

The Erasmus+ scheme is not just restricted to university education; it also provides funding support for volunteer groups, sports initiatives, training and development throughout Europe, so it is important to note that the impact of withdrawal is not restricted to higher education alone.

Leaving the EU will also effect UK partnerships with other academic institutions who collaborate through the European Research Area. The ERA will agree time-limited framework programmes, and the current version of this is Horizon 2020, **which will allocate something like €80 billion** of research funds between 2014 and 2020. A large number of UK universities are already committed to some of these programmes, and from what we understand, if a programme

**has been started it will be allowed to finish after the UK's** formal exit date. The problem lies in the longer-term implications for UKHE collaboration with other European countries. The UK may well prove to be a less attractive partner if any new immigration policy restricts or deters high quality academics from across Europe from moving to the UK. Restrictions on freedom of movement will also impact those EU nationals who are already living and working in the UK – their situation is, at best, uncertain, and again if they were to leave the UK, the overall quality and reputation of UKHE will be compromised.

Issues around the future of citizenship affect students and staff alike. European citizenship will no longer be available to everyone in the UK unless they have a close family connection or were born in an EU member state. EU citizens have recourse to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and once again the UK Government position is that ECJ rulings should not affect the primacy of the UK justice systems. The future of citizenship and residence rights will, no doubt, be a key discussion point in the UK Government's consultation and subsequent legislation on immigration which will have **a strong focus on "border control"**. This legislation will have a significant impact on the future of HE partnerships and it is to be hoped that making the system less bureaucratic and hostile towards international students (and future trading partners) will prevail.

It's absolutely vital moving forward that NUS fights to preserve the continued free movement of students and academics, that the rights of existing EU students and academics in the UK are protected, and that students are not used as bargaining chips in the negotiation process.

# Contacts

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# Speak to us!

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## ESU



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# Speak to us!

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# Important things to know

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## BEING IN THE UK

- In the UK, we drive on the left. Beware of traffic during your stay in Cardiff – make sure you look both ways.
- The weather in the UK can be unpredictable – sometimes cold, sometimes mild; sometimes dry, sometimes wet. Bring appropriate clothes for rain.
- The UK uses the pound (also known as Sterling or GBP/£). Pounds come as £1 or £2 coins, as well as £5, £10, £20, and sometimes £50 notes. There are 100 pennies (p) in a pound, and these are available in 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, and 50p coins.
- Cash and card are widely accepted as payment methods, and there are numerous ATM facilities.
- If you require the emergency services, call 999.
- There are a number of taxi firms in Cardiff, including Dragon (029 2033 3333) (who also have an app), Premier (029 2055 5555), and Capital (029 2077 7777), as well as Uber.
- **To dial a UK's international dialling code is +44.**
- Our time zone is currently set at GMT+1.
- While we do not encourage you to drink alcohol excessively, note that only those aged 18+ are able to purchase alcohol, and take note of licensing laws.
- Smoking is not permitted indoors in public places; the use of electronic cigarettes is also sometimes prohibited, although not by law.
- You may be fined or prosecuted for having on your person, using, or distributing drugs including cannabis.

# ESU Code of Conduct

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## PREAMBLE

Based on the principles of equality, accessibility and respect, that ESU has given itself and agreed upon by adopting this code of conduct at the Board Meeting 68 in Yerevan, Armenia, the representatives and participants on internal and external events are expected to adhere to the points detailed below. The purpose of this document is to have guidelines that prevent unwanted behaviour in the organization and also determine the process to follow up on potential breaches. The participants of each event have to assure that they are aware of the code of conduct and behave according to it. The EC is responsible for promoting the code of conduct in an appropriate way in the beginning of each event.

## PARTICIPATION RULES

Actively engage in the organized activities during seminars, panel sessions and discussions as well attending all the organized sessions, meetings, discussions and debates. Respect the timeframes given by **the organizers of the event. Respect the event's facilities and any rules associated with such use.** Respect the environment and take care about their surroundings.

## GENERAL BELIEVES

- Treat everyone equally irrespective of socio economic background, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, political views, reduced mobility, gender expression, disabilities or any other basis of discrimination, abstaining from any direct or indirect discrimination as well from any form of harassment.
- Do not make any inappropriate jokes or remarks, based on any discriminative grounds that cause people to feel uncomfortable or discriminated against.
- Behave and react towards their colleagues with respect.
- Respect the different multicultural backgrounds of their colleagues and reflect on the own behaviour.
- Proactively create an inclusive welcoming atmosphere for all of the participants, during both formal and informal parts of the event.
- Do not use demeaning or abusive language towards other participants

We are emphasizing herein that this list is not exhaustive and that the violations of the Ethical Guidelines might happen outside of the frames given by this Code of Conduct.

## RULES OF PROCEDURE

Depending on the gravity of the behaviour, the EC in accordance with the ad hoc committee (see below) reserve the right to address the issue in the best way they see fit by applying one or more of the measures listed below through the set procedure.

## ACTIVE LEGITIMACY

Any of the participants witnessing the breach or the victim her/himself may report the matter to one of the two persons specifically entrusted to that role for that particular event.

These are designated by the EC for every event and are bound to discretion towards the reported matters. The trusted persons need to be briefed by the equality coordinator before being assigned to be able to handle sensitive situations adequately. The two persons will be announced at the beginning of the event **and should reflect the participants' diversity.**

The person informed will immediately forward the information to the ESU Executive Committee and the Equality Coordinator. The person informed will immediately forward the information to the ESU Executive Committee and the Equality Coordinator. However, in case it was not the victim itself reporting the breach, the trusted persons must not forward any information before consulting the perceived victim.

## THE ACTING PROCEDURE

Upon receiving the report, the EC has to set up an ad hoc committee balanced with regard to region, gender and other relevant parameters of three to five persons within 24 hours.

The ad hoc committee is bound to discretion and obliged to handle the issue brought up with the utmost care. The ad hoc committee is chosen by the EC including one representative of the EC, the Equality coordinator, and one representative from a member union. The ad hoc committee is chosen by the EC including one representative of the EC, the Equality coordinator and one representative from a member union not involved in the conflict.

At least one member of the ad hoc committee will be of a different gender.

The ad hoc committee will immediately look into the report, consult the acting parties and bring a decision whether there has been a breach of the Code or not. If the ad hoc committee decides, there has been a breach of the Code, it will immediately decide upon enacting one of the below proposed measures, on their free estimation of the most appropriate reaction to the breach.

The decision making process within the committee needs to be unanimous.

If the situation requires it, the decision of the ad hoc committee will be read before the beginning of the next session of the event.

### MEASURES

- Spoken warning to the perpetrator in question
- Written warning to the perpetrator read before the beginning of the next session of the event in question
- Removal of the perpetrator from the session/event in question
- Official ESU letter to the sending organization of the perpetrator
- Restriction of participation in future ESU events of the individual breaching the code.
- Allow the injured party (also if no individual was harmed) to make a statement before the next session

Any other measure not mentioned here, in agreement with the Executive Committee. No public action must be taken without the consent of the injured individual or party.

### RIGHT TO APPEAL

If the perpetrator (or his/her NUS) in question, or the injured party, feels that the EC decision is wrongly based, whether on fact or principle, they must send in an appeal in writing to the EC or the trusted person within two hours. No action can be taken within that two hour period, unless there is a reason to protect **the victim's person. Otherwise the objection has to be presented in writing to the EC or the trusted person** within 12 hours. The EC then decides unanimously to revoke the decision or not or to propose an alternative sanction. If unanimity cannot be reached, the original sanction stays valid.

# Miscellaneous

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## THANKS

We are very grateful for the support of the Welsh Government and of Cardiff University in sponsoring us.



## BEHAVIOUR

Please follow all local laws and regulations and ensure that you are not also in **breach of your own country's laws.**

Behaviour which is deemed to be harassment will not be tolerated at ESC 34, and those found to be harassing others will be subject to strict disciplinary measures. This extends particularly to sexual harassment, and other forms of harassment such as sexism, racism, homophobia, and transphobia. In this regard, we operate a zero tolerance policy.

We kindly request that you conduct yourself in a respectful manner – both on- and offline – towards everyone. You are required to act with due regard to your **own safety and that of others, and to respect others' wishes. Do not infringe on others' rights to a safe space or to withdraw from activities, including social activities,** when they need to.

In accordance with relevant regulations, ESC 34 promotes the use of the Welsh language. Please also respect the principles of sustainability.

## SAFETY

Please follow instructions given to you from staff, stewards, or officers.

If you are providing food or drink to other delegates, or consuming food or drink that other delegates have provided (e.g. during the Intercultural evening), please note that this is at your own risk and the organisers take no responsibility.

# Notes

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