

Pollock Bibles Motion

This Association Notes

1. The motion in the minutes of the SRC Executive dated 10th October 2005 at point 9.3 entitled “Respecting Diversity” and the motion in the minutes of the SRC dated 18th October 2005 at point 5.2 entitled “Respecting Diversity” which effectively prevented “Gideon’s International” from placing Bibles in rooms in Pollock.
2. The motion which was taken to the EUSA General Meeting on the 8th February 2006 entitled “Pollock Bibles” which was an attempt to overturn the SRC’s decision of the 18th October 2005 to prevent Bibles being placed in rooms in Pollock. This motion received 239 votes for it and 159 votes against it but as the vote for did not reach the required quorate of 300 the motion fell.
3. Article 9 (Freedom of thought, conscious and religion and freedom to manifest such beliefs in public and private) and Article 10 (Freedom of expression which includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers) of the European Convention of Human Rights which is incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998.

This Association Believes

1. That the Bible has had a powerful impact on Scottish Culture and is useful to the study of many disciplines including literature, history, law, social anthropology, classics, divinity and philosophy.
2. That many religions, philosophies and spiritualities respect the contents of the Bible.
3. That many students have taken comfort in a Bible passage in times of distress and this is important given that the University Chaplaincy Centre is only open 9am – 9pm weekdays and is only staffed 9am-5pm.
4. That by providing the Bible and other Scriptures the University is not necessarily promoting the contents of such texts but merely making a service available to students. There is nothing to prevent the university or EUSA attaching stickers to any books placed in Pollock making clear that the University does not endorse the views contained within such books.
5. That it is in the interests of promoting religious diversity and promoting freedom of expression and religion that EUSA do not prevent Bibles being placed in rooms in Pollock
6. That the University should be a free market place of ideas and as such no view should be suppressed or censored. True tolerance would allow all views a chance to be fairly represented and would not ban the distribution of any books.
7. That any group or society representing any particular point of view who wish to provide literature to be placed in every room in Pollock should be allowed to do so providing the books are made available freely at their own expense.

The Association Resolves

1. To uphold freedom of religion, tolerance and freedom of expression by removing all barriers to the placing of Bibles or other texts in rooms at Pollock.
2. To mandate the President of EUSA to represent these views to Accommodation Services so that the situation can be returned to what it used to be prior to the SRC deciding Bibles should be removed from Pollock.

Proposed by: Stephen Allison 0561858

Seconded by: David Nixon 0673044