

*Should LUU support the LGBT+ Society's campaign 'Leeds Fix the Cistem' to make Leeds safe for trans students?*

What do you want/Why do you want it?

LUU LGBT+ Society is currently making a public campaign called 'Leeds Fix the Cistem' against institutional transphobia at the University. Trans students do not feel safe or welcomed here - our deadnames have been leaked due to IT systems which the University has [admitted are unfit for purpose](#), unlawfully outing us as trans to groups of strangers on our courses, violating our dignity and privacy, and putting us at risk of transphobic harassment and abuse. When instances of transphobic hate speech have occurred at the University, senior management [have excused this hate speech as 'academic debate'](#), even though their own [Freedom of Expression Protocol](#) acknowledges that hate speech should never be considered 'reasonable academic debate'. Every day we speak with members who have been maliciously misgendered, asked inappropriate questions in seminars, made to feel excluded in their halls of residence, and had their very existence 'debated' about. This has led our trans members to feel immense distress and exhaustion, and many wish they never came to the University of Leeds.

The society has been trying to work with leadership in the University for a year to improve the conditions for trans students, and all that has happened in our interactions with the University is that we are ignored and gaslit. The only recourse we have left to enact meaningful change is this public campaign, which we are asking LUU to support unequivocally, and bring our list of demands to their meetings with senior leadership.

We want LUU to work across their organisation, bringing in voices from the Executive, digital and communications and student leaders to put both internal and public pressure on the University to meet our demands to make University safe for trans students, supporting our society's campaign.

Our main campaign demands are:

1. Stop sharing deadnames on University of Leeds IT systems by 7th March 2022, the deadline that the University has given itself to sort out these issues.
2. Hate speech is not free speech; zero tolerance to all forms of transphobia. Treat transphobic hate speech as a serious issue to be eliminated – as with all hate speech, it should never be considered reasonable freedom of expression. Release a public statement condemning transphobic hate speech. Transphobic hate speech is defined by the trans people whose lives are negatively affected by it.
3. Be honest, answer our questions, and apologise to all the trans people affected by the institutional hostile environment.