

**Motion to Support Scholarships for Refugees
(as drafted by the Oxford Students Refugee Council)**

This MCR notes:

1. The ongoing refugee crisis has displaced many thousands of students worldwide.
2. That these students have been deprived of the chance to pursue higher education courses in their native countries.
3. That the University of Oxford has yet to provide organized, clear and comprehensive financial and welfare support for refugee and asylum-seeking students.
4. That the University of Oxford has a tradition of aiding students seeking asylum, as proven by the efforts of the Bureau of Information for Refugee Scholars in the 1930s.
5. Several other UK Universities have committed to funding scholarship places, such as Warwick University, York University, SOAS University of London, London School of Economics, and the University of East London.
6. The existence of the Oxford Students Refugee Campaign, which aims at coordinating the efforts of student, academic and administrative members of the Oxford University to work with refugee assistance organisations (e.g. CitizensUK, Article 26, Kiron University, ISNUK, Just Love, Asylum Welcome, Oxford City of Sanctuary, amongst others) to develop well-round financial and welfare support for displaced students, whose studies have been disrupted, to pursue their higher education at the Oxford University
7. That 1st week OUSU Council passed a motion mandating the OUSU sabbatical officers to support the work of the Campaign.
8. If every student at Oxford contributes £1 a month, the living costs of 20 refugee and asylum seeking students could be funded.
9. That asylum seekers already living in the UK are counted as foreign nationals, and are not eligible to receive a student loan or domestic tuition fee status.

This MCR believes:

1. That access to higher education should be based on merit, and not nationality, immigration status, race or financial situation.
2. That the University of Oxford has a duty to support refugee students.
3. Given that the University of Oxford is one of the leading universities in the world, by supporting this cause, it has the potential to influence the policy pertaining to student refugees at an international level.
4. Such a scheme would not only change the lives of the scholars, but also enrich the Oxford community, as well as demonstrate the students' commitment to sharing the excellent educational opportunities the University has to offer with those students whose studies have been disrupted due to war and persecution.
5. That creating these student funded scholarships would help put pressure on the University to provide long-term and sustainable financial support to refugee and asylum seeking students.

This MCR resolves to:

1. Commit to implementing an opt-out levy of £4 per term, in the form of a battels charge, for two years, subject to the successful implementation of the campaign. This will go towards the Oxford Students Refugee Scholarships fund that would provide expected refugee and asylum seeking students with a stipend.
2. Mandate the MCR President to send oxrcampaign@gmail.com an email with the header 'St. Edmund Hall' MCR supports Oxford Students Refugee Scholarships'.

3. Mandate the MCR President to inform College Officers and Governing Body that this motion has been passed and ask they support the campaign as individuals and as a college body.
4. Mandate the President and OUSU Rep to support all OUSU council motions consistent with the beliefs set out in this motion.
5. Mandate the [JCR/MCR] OXSRC representative to keep the common room up to date with the Oxford Students Refugee Campaign.

Proposed by:

Seconded by: