



St John's College Junior Common Room

Standing Policy

Last updated 02/03/2021

This document contains the **beliefs** and **unresolved resolutions** of the People's Republic of St. Giles. It is a supplement to the constitution of the said body and, as such, policy expressed in the constitution should always be given higher priority to that expressed in this document.

Beliefs

1/ The "Gender-Neutral JCR" Standing Policy Motion (Passed 17/01/21)

This JCR believes that:

- a) The JCR should use gender-neutral language rather than gender-binary language in so far as it is possible.
- b) When the JCR specifies a dress code, it does not correlate certain clothing items with certain genders.
- c) When the JCR holds gender-specific events, anyone who identifies with that gender either wholly or partially is welcome, and that inclusive terminology is used when advertising these events.
- d) Bathrooms should be gender-neutral spaces and should be clearly signposted as such.

2/ The "Save the Lamb & Flag" Standing Policy Motion (Passed 31/01/21)

This JCR believes that:

- a. The Lamb and Flag is an important part of life at St John's and the site should remain in use as a public house.
- b. If possible, the pub should reopen under the management of the College in order to retain its unique character, and at the very least it should remain a free house.
- c. The present circumstances should be used as an opportunity for reflection on the ways in which the pub can have a closer and more well-defined relationship with the College community and the JCR in particular.

3/ The "Disability Awareness" Standing Policy Motion (Passed 07/03/21)

This JCR believes that:

- a. All activities and events organised by the JCR Committee should be made as accessible as possible.
- b. The type of event will determine the type of accessibility adjustments that need to be made. Common examples include having plain text options as well as auditory options in a quiz, allergy information at food events, non-alcoholic options at bops and holding events in accessible places.
- c. This JCR should hold events that are as accessible as possible, whilst understanding that no event will ever be fully accessible. The JCR committee will make accessibility

arrangements wherever possible, and listen to the needs of any person who asks for specific arrangements for their accessibility needs.

4/ The “Standing With Our Jewish Community” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 11/02/21)

This JCR believes that:

- a. Antisemitism has a long history in Oxford. The JCR must publicly condemn all forms of antisemitism, as laid out in the IHRA definition, if we are to create a safe environment for Jewish students.
- b. The JCR opposes in the strongest terms antisemitism in all its forms. We have a responsibility to challenge all prejudice and discrimination in our community, including from those in authority, and to equip JCR members with the tools to do this.

5/ The “Support those affected by the conflict in Ukraine” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 29/11/19)

This JCR believes that:

- a. The common room must lend its support to Ukrainians and members of the Eastern European diaspora in Oxford that have been hit by the crisis.
- b. St. John’s JCR condemns President Vladimir Putin’s decision to authorise an invasion of Ukraine. We recognise the sovereignty of Ukraine as a nation and stand in solidarity.
- c. We condemn the inaction of the UK government and their choice to not fully waive visa requirements for Ukrainians in light of the crisis. There are estimated to be 18,000 Ukrainian citizens in the UK as of last year, and the Eastern European diaspora are an important part of the population in both Oxford and the rest of the country.
- d. We also stand in solidarity with Russian staff and students, whom we recognise are not responsible for the crisis at hand and may be experiencing fear of ostracization and discrimination.
 2. To lobby the college administration to fly a Ukrainian flag above the college in visible support and solidarity with both students and staff affected by the crisis.
 3. To raise awareness amongst JCR members of demonstrations taking place in the city.

Implementing Resolutions

1/ The “Jazz Up The JCR!” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 27/11/20)

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Mandate the 2020 Treasurer to establish a “Social Space Improvement” budget, transferring all remaining unrestricted budget allocation to this budget at the end of the JCR financial year (i.e. immediately before the 2021 budget is passed)
- b. Mandate the 2021 Treasurer to carry forward the “Social Space Improvement” budget from the 2020 to the 2021 budget, thus increasing the total Budget Allocation for 2021 by the amount unspent in 2020
- c. Allocate this budget item to the JCR General Committee for use in 2021, who will use this budget to make improvements to the JCR social spaces with the aim of increasing the appeal of these spaces for socialising

2/ The “Decarbonise SJC” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 17/01/21)

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Mandate the JCR President to endorse all commitments as laid out and to communicate the JCR’s support of the proposed Sustainability Plan to college.
- b. Mandate the JCR Environment and Ethics Officer, President and Vice-President to lobby St John’s to ensure the following measures are taken:
 - i. The college commits to carbon and biodiversity targets which are at least as ambitious as those in the new University strategy by the end of Trinity term 2021.
 - ii. Development of a formal sustainable strategy which describes how targets will be achieved, such as the Sustainability Plan endorsed in this motion by the JCR.
 - iii. Development of a system of transparent annual reporting of target progress and carbon emissions by the end of Trinity term 2021.
 - iv. The college has a designated sustainability position reporting to the sustainability working group that takes responsibility for progress.

3/ The “Save the Lamb & Flag” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 31/01/21)

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Mandate the President of the JCR to send a letter to Maggie Snowling, the President of St John’s College, and Andrew Parker, the Principal Bursar, communicating support of the activists from the JCR and asking that St John’s administration cooperate with the activists on their demands.

4/ The “Disability Awareness” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 07/03/21)

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Mandate the Equality and Diversity Officer in consultation with the Disabilities Rep to organise Oxford SU Disability Training, or another form of similar training, which should be compulsory for event-oriented members of the JCR Committee.
- b. Mandate the JCR President to consider in consultation with the Disabilities Rep how they can better monitor and receive feedback on the accessibility of JCR events.

5/ The “Stand With Our Jewish Community!” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 11/02/21)

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Mandate the JCR President to release a statement on behalf of the whole JCR expressing these beliefs.
- b. Mandate the JCR Equality and Diversity Officer to arrange Antisemitism Awareness Training for JCR members, provided by the Union of Jewish Students.

6/ The “Beehive Residents (2020-21) Ought To Be Reimbursed” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 13/06/21)

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a) Mandate the JCR President to bring this motion to college and to request some form of recompense for students living in Beehive this year.
- b) Mandate the JCR President to maintain contact with students living in Beehive on the progress of these discussions with college, and follow up with this in Michaelmas.
- c) Mandate the JCR Executive Committee to work with college on the new room grading system, and to do their best to ensure that students who do not have kitchen access pay less rent, and that the room grading system is more transparent.

7/ The “Make rents transparent” Motion (Passed 13/06/21)

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Mandate either the President, Vice-President or Domestic Officers to address this with college in domestic committee, and at rents and charges next year.

8/ The “This Should Not Happen Again” Standing Policy Motion (Passed 7/06/20)

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- a. Mandate the all JCR Officers to secure committee approval on spending of over £750 from their budgets.
- b. Mandate the JCR Secretary and JCR Treasurer to review in Michaelmas how this process of committee approval might be more permanently incorporated into the Constitution.