

## **Motion For UPSU to adopt the Social Model of Disability**

### **The Motion Encourages the Union to Note:**

1. This motion is for the University of Portsmouth Students' Union to endorse and put into practice the Social Model of disability to create a more inclusive and accessible environment for all. This is in order to resolve the large inequalities faced by disabled and neurodivergent students in our education and more generally in society today.
2. Students are often assessed on long written assignments, this is despite the fact that everyone learns differently. Being able to write a good essay is not a good assessment of learning knowledge.
3. Accessibility is not just physical. The barriers faced are not by a minority few. Around 15 percent of the world's population, or an estimated 1 billion people, live with disabilities. They are the world's largest minority. (WHO, 2021). In the UK this figure is at 20% or 1 in 5 People (Gov.uk, 2021).
4. The UoP employability service does not have tailored support for disabled and neurodivergent students, this is despite only 52.3% of disabled people being in employment this year (ONS, 2021) Moodle is a complex and tricky site to navigate.

### **The Motion Encourages the Union to Believe:**

1. The Social Model of Disability holds that people with impairments are 'disabled' by the barriers operating in society that exclude and discriminate against them. The Social Model of Disability states that the oppression and exclusion people with impairments face is caused by the way society is run and organised.
2. The model states that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference. It states that people have impairments but that the oppression, exclusion and discrimination people with impairments face is not an inevitable consequence of having an impairment, but is caused instead by the way society is run and organised.

### **The Motion Encourages the Union to Resolve:**

1. UPSU put into practice the Social Model of Disability. This means that in any union policy, service, or activity of the union (no matter how informal), all barriers that inhibit an individual from accessing it fully shall be eliminated.

2. The union shall create a statement that incorporates its commitment to the community and the actions it shall take to empower all. Endorsement means that the union accepts a broader field of accountability when it comes to removing barriers and creating a more accessible and inclusive environment for all.