

The Hive Campaign: Student Solidarity in Times of Corona

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Council notes

1. As a result of the pandemic our generation is experiencing unprecedented times, a dark moment in history with unknown consequences. The Granite City has been particularly affected, a city where unemployment is increasingly rising¹, and job vacancies have fallen by 75%².
2. Our student community is suffering great financial hardship. Many of our fellow students are finding it nearly impossible to make ends meet as their jobs have disappeared, yet they still have bills and rent to pay. Students also find it difficult to rely on their families for support because they have also been affected by the pandemic. Many of us are also far from home, unable to return to our families due to financial difficulties.
3. We are also being affected by a more silent threat which affects our mental health; loneliness. In this context, ONS figures find that rates of depression have doubled during the pandemic³. Coronavirus is disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable people in society and will exacerbate factors known to be related to suicide⁴ ⁵.

Council believes

1. That in times of crisis our community must come together to face adversity. We must recognise that we do not live alone, that we are members of one body and that we are responsible for each other.
2. That although our Sabbatical Officers are doing their best, the challenge placed by the pandemic is one that requires the unity and cooperation of all the students.
3. That AUSA must do all it can to support the students who are most affected by the pandemic.
4. That a Campaign aimed at helping students, both, financially and psychologically, will hugely contribute to appease their suffering.

Council resolves

1. That a campaign known as “The Hive Campaign: Student Solidarity in Times of Corona” will be set up with immediate effect.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/oct/07/covid-generation-uk-youth-unemployment-set-to-triple-to-80s-levels>

² https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/fp/news/local/aberdeen-hardest-hit-city-in-uk-as-new-figures-show-job-vacancies-down-75/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social

³ <https://www.mind.org.uk/news-campaigns/news/mind-responds-to-ons-figures-showing-impact-of-coronavirus-on-peoples-mental-health/>

⁴ <https://www.samaritans.org/scotland/about-samaritans/research-policy/understanding-our-callers-during-covid-19-pandemic/what-do-we-know-about-coronavirus-and-suicide-risk/>

⁵ <https://academic.oup.com/qjmed/article/113/10/707/5857612>

2. That the organisers of this campaign will be able to raise funds to help students financially and enhance the already established Covid-19 525 Bursary Fund and the EU/International Hardship Fund.
3. That AUSA will raise awareness of the existence of this campaign and will make sure that students know that they can receive help.