

## **Policy on the Responsible Use of Alcohol / Safe Drinking Policy**

### **The Union Knows**

- Many young adults today share the view that alcohol is integral to a fun night out and the socialising of young adults has increasingly developed a culture that reinforces the need for drinking to participate and belong.
- Three quarters of 18-24 year olds regret their drunken behaviour, which includes not knowing how they got home (27 per cent) and ending up in hospital (three per cent).  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/alcohol-statistics-worrying-says-home-secretary>
- For 16-24-year olds, 26% of deaths in males and 23% of deaths in females have been attributed to alcohol consumption.  
<http://www.alcoholeducationtrust.org/teacher-area/facts-figures/>
- 53% of all victims of violence said their attacker was affected by alcohol at the time. It is estimated that there were 704,000 violent alcohol related incidents in 2013/14. *ibid*
- 6% of 16 – 24 year-old men drink more than 50 units a week and 3% of women aged 16 – 24 drink more than 35 units a week putting themselves at risk of alcohol dependency, mental and behavioural problems and long term health risks such as liver disease. *ibid*
- That the proportion of young adult's bingeing at least once a week is now down from 29% in 2005 to 18% in 2013.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-31452735>
- It is thought that fewer adults are choosing to drink alcohol and also drinking less when they do. *ibid*
- More than a fifth of UK adults now say they do not drink alcohol at all - a slight increase on 2005. *ibid*
- Partly it is cultural. Young people spend more time at home using social media or doing their homework and less time down the pub or hanging around the bus shelter with their mates. *ibid*
- Alcohol is just not that fashionable any more. Indeed, consumption of tobacco and illegal drugs is also down. *ibid*
- Changing attitudes to alcohol are also driven by diversity. A little over 7% of young people currently describe themselves as Muslims or Sikhs, religions which largely forbid alcohol consumption. *ibid*
- The Students' Union at UWE currently operates policies and procedures (Licensed Trade Operational Policies and Procedures, Safe Spaces and Zero Tolerance Policies) to ensure the Students' Union is a safe space for students and is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of its students through the promotion of responsible alcohol consumption.



### **The Unions Believes**

- That while consumption of alcohol is for many students part of the 'student experience' and University life it is within the best interests of all students to provide advice and support so that it is done safely.
- That it should adapt to the changing behaviours young people have when it comes to alcohol consumption.
- It should play a part in the continuing year on year trend of more sensible alcohol consumption amongst young people.
- That alcohol consumption shouldn't be the focus of all events and many students would enjoy more events that don't have a large focus on drinking.
- That as a diverse union we have a responsibility to provide fun events for those who do not through choice, religion or culture consume alcohol.

### **The Union Will**

- Commit to providing a safe, healthy study and work and leisure environment that fosters and promotes the sensible consumption of alcohol.
- Recognise its responsibilities associated with both the selling and provision of alcohol and will exercise its duty of care towards staff, students and others by ensuring that the consumption of alcohol on campus is managed responsibly and complies with the Licensing Act 2005.
- Commit to developing a social culture that promotes the sensible use of alcohol and offers suitable alternatives to those who prefer alcohol-free activities.
- Not condone the misuse or abuse of alcohol and commit to reducing the risks associated with alcohol use within its community.
- Whenever it is appropriate the University will take disciplinary action in response to unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse or abuse of alcohol.
- Aim to reduce alcohol related harms on university campuses, changing cultures and attitudes towards alcohol, and working to improve students' welfare, health and education.
- Offer more opportunities and events that don't revolve around alcohol consumption.
- Promote an environment where we provide alcohol but ensure it is consumed in a safe manner.

**The Union Chooses:** VP Community & Welfare

**Proposer:** Scarlett Oliver

