

**National Equality groups Conference 2022**

**Motions for debate (LGBT+)**

**Saturday 10 December**

**Extract from Standing Orders relating to motions**

**Standing Orders 2.6 state that ‘**Resolutions passed at annual equality conferences will be advisory. They will be submitted to the National Executive Committee, together with any advice and recommendations from the Equality and Standing Committees, and a copy of the draft minutes of the annual conferences.

Votes on motions will be by show of voting cards issued at the registration desk.   Please see staff at the registration desk if you have misplaced your voting card.

Conference is hereby requested to debate and vote on the following motion.

One motion has been received.

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| **Motion** | **Proposed by** | **Title** |
| 1 | University of Sheffield | MPX, Sexual Health and the post-16 sector |

**Motion 1**  **MPX, Sexual Health and the post-16 sector**

**Proposer** **University of Leeds**

**Word count**   **374**

Conference notes:

* the 2022 removal of ‘sexual and reproductive health rights’ and ‘bodily autonomy’ from the UK Government’s Statement on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Gender Equality
* severe cuts to sexual health services across the UK and the consistent failure to implement a government strategy on reproductive and sexual health
* the disproportionate impact of these cuts on availability based on youth, geography and various protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010
* the MPX breakout in 2022 had a disproportionate impact on LGBT+ communities (specifically men, trans women and non-binary people who have sex with men) in the UK as well as certain Black communities in the UK and internationally
* that already stretched and underfunded sexual health clinics were forced to choose between emergency MPX response and routine services, like long-acting contraception
* decisions on vaccine prioritisation were based on limited data and assumptions about sexual behaviours of men who have sex with men, often based in major cities, with the resulting vaccine rollout also relying on these assumptions
* the Health Secretary’s refusal to procure further MPX vaccine doses in September out of concerns that they did not provide ‘value for money’

Conference believes that:

* it is essential that all communities have access to adequately funded, free and accessible sexual health services, regardless of where they live
* cuts to these services, while part of the wider austerity and privatisation agenda, have specific and serious impacts on already marginalised communities, including LGBT+ staff and students in our institutions

Conference resolves to:

* join organisations like the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV in calling for a coordinated strategy on reproductive and sexual health and an immediate increase in funds for these services
* join sexual health organisations and activists such as Prepster and Love Tank in demanding that the government reverse course and urgently seek sufficient MPX vaccine doses to address the current outbreak and prepare against future ones
* call for better funding and institutional support for research in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, particularly into regional and other variations in sexual practices, sexual risk, and access to and engagement with appropriate services
* call on universities and colleges to develop sexual health introductory modules that address the needs of all students, and particularly LGBT+ students