



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the York Federation of Students (YFS) was held on November 28th, 2019 at 6pm. As per the YFS Bylaws, the AGM is an opportunity for members to engage in their students' union by hearing reports from the Executive, reviewing the previous fiscal year's Audited Financial statements, and submitting and voting on motions that provide direction for the Federation.

A motion titled "Motion on Fighting Imperialist Propaganda on our Campus" was submitted by an undergraduate student to be discussed and voted upon at the AGM. The motion was put forward by members, debated by members, and voted upon by members. This process is fundamental to our democratic framework.

We understand the impact that this motion has had. The YFS would never endorse, or support anti-Semitism, or any form of discrimination or violence. We are committed to the safety of our entire membership.

To further our commitment to anti-oppression, anti-war, and anti-imperialism, the YFS Board of Directors will be analyzing and considering this motion to determine how it will be implemented. This will be done in collaboration with students and campus groups through community consultation. We are committed to further exploring and defining the intention behind the motion in a way that protects and reaffirms our commitment to free speech and the right to organize, while upholding our paramount principles of peaceful and non-violent activism. This process will seek to define specific parameters of the motion, as well as address concerns that have been brought forth following the Annual General Meeting.

Historically students and student unions have been at the forefront of real political change and combating injustices around the world. The YFS will continue to be a vocal leader by engaging in this work through an intersectional and anti-oppressive framework. We have and will always be committed to working on anti-war and anti-imperialist campaigns through non-violent means and active solidarity, while continuing to foster progressive dialogue and create safer spaces for our members and community at large.

As the central undergraduate students' union at York University, the YFS is an autonomous body governed by the membership, composed of undergraduate students, and legally binding Bylaws and Constitution. The request from the University Administration to rescind the motion is out of bounds, and not within their jurisdiction or right. YFS is an engaged member of the broader University community and is open to hearing the perspectives of other stakeholders on a variety of issues. At no time, however, will the Federation succumb to intimidation by external bodies, universities or institutions based on false assumptions regarding our motives. We answer to our membership.

With that, for any members who are feeling unsafe, or would like to raise their concerns with the YFS, there are measures in place. All questions and concerns can be directed to the President of the York Federation of Students at president@yfs.ca. Students can also visit the YFS Wellness Centre in Room 341 Second Student Centre, or contact us at wellness@yfs.ca to learn about further resources to support their health and well-being.