

JCR EMERGENCY GENERAL MEETING 23/10/2023

AGENDA

MOTIONS

Introductions

Motion -

- "Donations to victims of the Israel-Palestine conflict"

Questions/Discussion

Alternative motion read -

- "Donations to humanitarian aid in Gaza"

Questions/Discussion continued

Proposed motion amendment (original motion)

- "Donations to victims of the Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East"

Further questions

Proposed motion amendment (original motion)

- "Donations to victims in Israel and occupied Palestinian Territories"

Amended motion

- "Donations to victims in Israel and Occupied Palestinian territories"

Further questions

Voting

RESOLUTIONS

The amended motion **"Donations to victims in Israel and Occupied Palestinian territories"** proposed by Rosie Jacobs, Seconded by Ayesha Chakravarti passes 49/53

Introductions -

- Krishh sets the precedent that shouting or loud talking will be frowned upon. If Krishh feels that someone is being harassed or someone is being personally attacked he has the right to ask people to leave the room.

Motion -

"Donations to victims of the Israel-Palestine conflict" - a motion proposed by Rosie Jacobs. Seconded by Ayesha Chakravarti

- *This JCR notes that:*
 - There is an ongoing humanitarian crisis as a result of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
 - It is imperative that we donate to humanitarian efforts in the region
- *This JCR believes that:*
 - We should donate to organisations which are supporting civilians who have been harmed on both sides of the conflict
- *This JCR therefore resolves to:*
 - Contribute £250 from the JCR charities budget to the British Red Cross

Questions/Discussion -

Q - Hannah Hopkins: wants to make everyone aware that the reason this meeting was called was because of a motion she proposed, she asks if she can read out the motion she proposes and asks that her motion can be put forward in the meeting. She is upset that her motion has been put down and that another motion has been put forward - she says this is a violent act.

- A - Krishh: in an emergency meeting another motion cannot be brought forward, only the motion that the meeting was called for can be considered.

Q - Hannah: asks again if she can read out the motion she proposes

- A - Krishh: yes

"Donations to humanitarian aid in Gaza" - a motion proposed by Hannah Hopkins, seconded by Alfie Davis:

This JCR notes that:

- There is a humanitarian crisis in Gaza
- There is an urgent need for donations to help save the lives of the victims

This JCR believes that:

- Money raised for these charities will make a significant positive impact

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- Contribute £100 from the JCR budget to the Red Cross and £100 for Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

Questions/Discussion continued -

Hannah - Statement on the motion she proposed:

- States that she was told her motion would be "too political" and that it would alienate marginalised students in the College
- She feels as if this is "crazy", she states that charity donations will always be political and that even the phrase "Israel-Palestine conflict"

is political

- She feels as if she was already “biting her tongue” in putting forward her motion [“donations to humanitarian aid in Gaza”]
- She is happy for the new motion [“Donations to victims of the Israel-Palestine conflict”] to go through
- But she is not happy about the way in which this situation was handled. She says she was made to feel “small and anxious”. She feels the JCR President has handled the situation “terribly” and says “I don’t back you” to Ruby

Ruby - Response:

- States that the constitution states she can hold an emergency meeting for an emergency motion but it doesn’t mean she should
- States that she spoke to members of the St Annes community, members of the Jewish community, and a Professor of Israeli Studies

Hannah -

- States that she is Jewish

Ruby - Response (cont):

- States she is aware Hannah Hopkins is Jewish
- Stresses the paramount importance of the welfare of students in her decision-making
- Also highlights the additional issue that the JCR only has so many funds, that the new motion proposes £250
- She says she did not “pick and choose” between the two motions but was advised and made the decision to not hold an emergency meeting for the motion proposed by Hannah Hopkins on the grounds of welfare for everyone which is her main responsibility

Hannah -

- Says she hears the concerns of the president
- Is tired of her identity being thrown around, especially with this issue as a donation for children
- She states that saying a donation to a children’s charity is antisemitic feels antisemitic to her personally

Ruby -

- States that she has a difficult position to tread and that she is only human. Argues that she is trying to make the best decision she can for everyone.

Rosie -

- Says she can’t speak on anything but her motion [“Donations to victims of the Israel-Palestine conflict”], but states she wanted it to be as apolitical as possible

Hannah -

- Argues a motion such as this should be political

Rosie -

- Agrees, but she feels personally it is not her job to take a political stance on the behalf of the JCR. She wants to send money on the behalf of the JCR but is not trying to take a stance on the conflict

Ayesha -

- States that obviously this is a political issue. Highlights that when you put a motion through the JCR you are speaking on the behalf of 450 people. States that you can have their own political opinions, but when you are speaking on the behalf of the JCR you must consider everyone. Says that although Hannah Hopkins is upset with the current motion being proposed we must consider that if another motion was put forward then other people would be upset.
- Her aim was to put forward a motion that was as apolitically worded as possible, aim is for the JCR to give humanitarian aid

Krishh -

- Asks that people put their hands up if they want to respond and that they don't cut in

Hannah -

- Asks about the word conflict - to her that word is associated with "right-wing propaganda language" in that it makes it seem like the situation is two-sided when in reality there is a very clear victim

Rosie -

- Highlights that that wasn't their intention with putting forward their motion, their intention was to donate money to the region, they are not intending to take sides. They just wanted to express their awareness of violence in the region, Rosie states she did research charities and found the British Red Cross as to Rosie's understanding the Red Cross is "quite heavy on the ground there". She can understand why this charity was picked, it wasn't her intention to come across as political in using the word "conflict"

Ayesha -

- Both her and Rosie are undergraduate students, they don't know the ins and outs of what is happening in Israel and Palestine - says that semantics are complicated. Admits that maybe her and Rosie's motion was entirely apolitical, but highlights that their intention wa to be apolitical and they did not wish to take a political side on the behalf of the JCR.

Q - Sara: is it possible to amend the wording so it's less political?

- A - Krishh and Ruby: yes, asks Hannah Hopkins for amended wording

Hannah - suggested amendment:

- To emphasise that "there is an urgent humanitarian crisis in Gaza and there is an urgent need to help the lives of the victims"
- Highlights that Gaza is in more need, and her friendly amendment is to change the wording of the motion

Rosie -

- Says she completely agrees. When she made the motion with Ayesha they agreed that of course Palestinians need the money the most.
- Says that she is someone who wants to educate herself on the issue, and says that she can never say that the money should go to one place over another. She doesn't think its her right to say where the money should go

Ayesha -

- Says that is the worst thing to have to save and “as horrible as it is” we must think about how this looks “for Annes as an institution” rather than saying what we want to say as we want to make a political statement.
- Argues that we can’t say that the money should go to Gaza as people will misread it. Although she personally believes to one place, she is anxious about speaking on the behalf of the other 450 members of the JCR

Q - Krishh (to Rosie and Ayesha): do you accept the amendment?

- A - (Ayesha Chakravarti): no, requests to change the “Israel-Palestine” bit. Emphasises that “its a PR thing for Annes”

Finn -

- Would like to interrogate the idea that the JCR can’t make political statements. Mentions the emergency motion passed about Ukraine, and highlights that there was a clear victim in the wording of the motion

Q - Ruby: was that in an emergency meeting?

- A - Finn - no it was a general meeting
- A - Ayesha - no, it was her time as Vice President where they never had an emergency meeting

Ruby -

- Says that this is part of the reason why there is an issue as it's a constitutional thing. States that an emergency meeting can only be called by the President. Says that the fact that an emergency meeting comes from Ruby means this suggests that whatever comes out of the emergency meeting is her personal political opinion

Finn -

- Says that as President Ruby isn’t allowed to vote on the motion, therefore the idea that her calling a meeting makes the motion her idea doesn’t stand

Ruby -

- Reiterates that it seems like her idea in the sense that she calls a meeting

Finn -

- States that this means that Ruby called the meeting as she thinks its an important issue, but in the end it is the JCR that votes

Ruby -

- Argues that this is the not the same grounds as a general meeting, and says that she doesn’t know how else to explain this

Michelle -

- Says that a lot has been said about the writing of this statement ie. not wanting it to be controversial for certain members of of the JCR, says that Ruby is saying this decision comes down to her

Ruby -

- Says that she’s not

Michelle -

- Accepts that it's not down to Ruby, but that the whole situation doesn't sound incredibly democratic. Doesn't really agree with what Ruby said about the wording of the motion

Ruby Austen -

- Asks if there is a question

Michelle -

- No

Krishh -

- Emphasises that this is a discussion and a forum on questions. States that he doesn't understand the point of a mere statement, states that the point of this meeting is to have a discussion

Hannah -

- States that she does feel it's an important point, and says that she thinks that on top of the specificities of the motion this meeting is also about discussing Ruby's conduct

Krishh -

- States that the meeting is based on the motion, it is not based on Ruby's conduct at all

Daniel -

- States this motion will always be controversial, says that whatever the wording of the motion is eventually a "someone" in a 450 strong JCR will be somewhat unhappy with the motion
- States that this means that if Hannah's motion is something that has support then it has support. Says that this will be controversial as even the motion the meeting was called for is controversial
- On the point about the emergency meeting for the war in Ukraine - says this was the year before his year and Ayesha's in the JCR (last year)

Ayesha -

- No, it was our year

[dates confirmed, it was the year before - 2022]

- Apologises and accepts it wasn't their year

Krishh -

- Says that he looked in the motions archives and found that the motion about the war in Ukraine was not an emergency motion but was submitted as a motion for a general meeting

Ayesha -

- States that a political motion will always be political, and says that she doesn't disagree in any way shape or form with anything that has been said. States that if both motions are controversial then "for PR reasons" you want to go with the one that is the least controversial.
- Says "I don't agree with anything that I'm saying but I do", says that she wishes that this didn't have to be the way for Annes. But highlights that we can donate in our personal time to what we want to, and say

what we want to then. But says that she wants to focus here on the behalf of the JCR

Krishh -

- Says we will discuss this for two more questions, due to time constraints. Will take Hannah and Ethan

Hannah -

- Says it is now her understanding that the reason that Rosie and Ayesha's motion is worded "in that way" is "due to PR", states that her motion is not worded in such a way as she says "I don't give a fuck about PR"

Ruby -

- Says that on a personal level she understands why Hannah feels this way. Ruby says she is very sorry that it has come to this, that she didn't want this amount of stress for Hannah, Alfie, or the whole committee.
- States that at the end of the day this is a sensitive issue we must tread around, it's not Hannah's decision. Ruby states she believes she made the decision that was best for the JCR and the welfare of students

Q - Ethan: Do we vote on the amendment? And then make a vote on the actual motion?

- A - Krishh: as long as Rosie and Ayesha say the amendment is fine then that's ok. If another motion comes in now that is constitutionally invalid
- A - Ayesha - as far as she understands the constitution the two people who propose and second the motion have to accept the amendment, it is not the JCR that votes on the amendment

Q - Ethan: should we vote on a personal basis or vote for what is best for the JCR?

- A - Krishh: up to you, we are voting as a JCR but you can vote how you feel as an individual

Q - Helen: is it correct that Hannah's motion will be discussed in a GM

- A - Krishh: yes it can be discussed in a GM

Q - Rosie and Ayesha: Say they understand that the word conflict is political but they don't feel comfortable using the word "occupation". Asks if the word conflict could be changed to anything?

- A - Gaspard: suggests "humanitarian crisis"
- A - Hannah: states "humanitarian crisis in Gaza" is her personal amendment
- A - Ayesha: suggests that by not using "Israel-Palestine" they are changing the meaning of the motion
- A - ???: suggests "middle east" instead of Gaza
- A - Ayesha: yes, accepted. Personally supports Hannah but is happy with the term "middle east"

Proposed motion amendment -

Title changed to: "Donations to victims of the Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East"

Further questions -

Q - Sara: asks if we can split the motion in two

- A - Ayesha - can't do this in an emergency meeting

Q - Rosie: asks if we can change the word "conflict" throughout the motion

- A - Krishh: yes

Shalina -

- States that on the Red Cross website the words they use are "Donations to Israel and occupied Palestinian territory appeal"

Proposed motion amendment -

Title - "Donations to victims in Israel and occupied Palestinian Territories"

→ accepted by Ayesha and Rosie

Amended motion -

"Donations to victims in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories" -
proposed by Rosie Jacobs, Seconded by Ayesha Chakrvarti

- *This JCR notes that:*
 - There is an ongoing humanitarian crisis in Israel and occupied Palestinian territories
 - It is imperative that we donate to humanitarian efforts in the region
- *This JCR believes that:*
 - We should donate to organisations which are supporting civilians who have been harmed
- *This JCR therefore resolves to:*
 - Contribute £250 from the JCR charities budget to the British Red Cross

Further questions -

Q - what implications would this have on the charity budget?

- A - Gaspard: the budget cannot be disclosed at this time, but it is a budget that is not meant to be used in its entirety

Q- Sara: do we want to split the motion into two motions which we can do constitutionally

- A - Krishh: it is required for the people proposing the motion to agree

Voting -

53 present

- Against - 2
- For - 49
- Abstain - 2

→ MOTION PASSES