

M.1516 – 9 Motion to permanently provide All Gender Toilets in HUU

HUU Notes:

1. Hull University Union is committed to providing an inclusive environment for all members regardless of their gender whilst treating all members equally.
 2. A trial of all gender toilets was implemented in HUU over the past 9 weeks in response to a motion passed by Union Council in December 2015.
 3. The female toilets on the ground floor were converted into all gender toilets whilst still keeping designated gendered toilets for both genders on the same floor.
 4. The all gender toilets have provided all students, no matter what their gender identity with a toilet to use. This has meant that students who wish to use non gendered toilets do not have to travel to the library, or use the disabled toilet. Being transgender or a non-binary student is not a disability, and without these toilets, students are being forced to either identify as a gender which they do not identify as, or as a disabled student, if they wish to use the bathroom in this building. Providing these toilets for the last 9 weeks has meant that all students can use the toilet in our building.
 5. 201 individual students gave feedback on these toilets, in different ways. This included taking part in a poll, leaving individual comments on the corkboard downstairs, commenting on Facebook posts, tweets, and personal comments made to VPWC. (Please see Appendix A for the full written feedback.)
- There is neutral feedback on these toilets, such as ‘I could not really care one way or another’ and ‘I have no strong opinion one way or the other’. This feedback shows that students are taking an interest in what we are doing, despite not having a strong for or against argument. 42 of the 201 pieces of feedback are neutral for the toilets in this building.
 - 91 of the 201 pieces of feedback are positive. Students who would not usually be comfortable using toilets in our building as they do not identify with the gender they were born with, if any gender at all are now using our building and leaving feedback on the affects these toilets have had on their student experience. Cis students are also leaving feedback, speaking about how amazing these toilets are for a step towards equality. (Students were not asked to identify when they were leaving feedback, but some chose to.) Comments include ‘I think they’re great! Let’s stop labelling ALL of the loos and just label them by function - like all other rooms’ and ‘I think it’s a fantastic idea. People worried about female safety should do a little research! If you’re unhappy, feel free to use the female/male toilet, otherwise please refrain from pissing off the inclusion of trans* students’. These comments show the effects these toilets are having on our students and the ways in which their experiences have been enhanced.
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- 68 of the comments were negative. Comments included were 'I don't use them now. I don't think it respects my safety or privacy as a woman', 'Hate it, it's gross and disgusting. So smelly now', and 'Female safety over trans feelings'.
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HUU Believes:

1. That these toilets allow every single student, no matter who they are, to use the bathroom and feel safe doing so. Gendered toilets are available, and we respect the views of individuals who only wish to use these – hence the provision. Providing all gender toilets does not take that right away but gives it to our students who do not wish to define as a specific gender at all. We take the well-being of all of our members extremely seriously, and are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment at all times.
2. That these toilets should stay in our building. By putting them in our building, we have made it accessible to students who would not usually feel comfortable coming in.
3. That without the all-gender toilets, non-binary and trans* students will have nowhere (apart from the toilets in the library) to use the toilets – using toilets that correspond to their gender assigned at birth would invalidate their identities, and for non-binary students, using toilets that conform to the gender binary would be inappropriate because it would also invalidate their identities. For many trans* students, using toilets that correspond to their gender poses a risk of them being harassed, which is completely unacceptable.

HUU Resolves:

1. That these toilets will remain all gender because of the overwhelming positive response that has been received from students, particularly those who are trans* and/or non-binary.
 2. That comments discussing cleanliness will be taken into account. The VP Welfare & Community will work with HUU staff to explore the provision of additional cleaning and signage and will report back to Union Council on the progress.
 3. That more signage about available toilets in the building will be developed.
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Proposer: VP Welfare & Community (Ashleigh Davies), LGBT+ Committee

Seconder: Matthew Evans, Gurmok Sanghera, Kathy Brook, Simon Hernandez, Chuby Okide, Katie Bowden, Liam Crosby, Connor Massey, Kodi Maier, Kayleigh Viswanathan, James Waide, Astrid McKay, Hayley Hatton, Amy Simpson, Alistair Wither, Zahra Wais, Rebecca Lavelle, Adam Rickman, Frankie Studdart, Lawrence Titley, Adrienne Mortimer, Peter Corner, Nicola Martin, Olivia Houghton, Lydia Palmeira, Carys Brown, Jo Barnes, Maarten Jackson, Rayne Goddard, Chris Knott, Margaret Hart, Luca Montessori, Ben Walker, David Bender, Matt Tapp, Andrew Warnes, Stuart Negus, Gabrielle Calvert, Vanessa O'Neill, William Price, Josie Findley, Josh Capatick, Elizabeth Ginn, Amelia Gamble, Billie-Jo Boyd, Kate Collier, Rose Whitelaw, Zoe Walker, Anthony Dove, Jessica Pratt, Simon Russel, Alexia Auger, Jack Taylor, Matthew Thwaites, James Fox, Rachel Lindberg, James Thomas Czerwik, Alex Shaw, Hellena Middleton, Tiera Owen, Zoe Cauwood,

George Whintton, Adam Cox, Laura Haigh, Charlotte Hall, Michael Fox, Johnnz Billyard, Jessie Everard, Karley Chadwick, Rosie Russell, Rebecca Dean (staff member), Rebecca Lavery, Matthew Tuck, Edwina d’Almeida, Nicola Marsden, Abby Franklin, Leocaides Hunt, Konstantinos (Alex) Xipolitos, Lucy Howard-Comber, Logan Newsome, Amy Jackson, Reece Sheppard, Hannah O’Shea, Danielle Griffin, Edward Towers, Georgina Baulch, Katie Weston, Lulu Frenett, Loannis Sorokos, Samantha Lomas, Ashleigh Shields, Matthew Farrell, Alizeh Shaikh, Chey Heap, Matthew Commerford, Miranda Lockyer, Ellen Ricketts, Jiao McKenna, Charlotte Mealings, Nick Mangan, Jordan Toft, Jordan Dyball, Abbie Buckton-Perkins, Philip Johnson, Katie Robson, Andy Thorne, Michelle Hayward, Fiona Hopkins, Max Cummins, Jordan Turner, Rebecca Kelly, Tom Lee-Bapt, James Stubbs Atkinson, Lucy Dunwell, Emma Harpham, Jacob Forbes, Jessica Bailey, Oliver Chapman, Emily-Alice Poulton, Katy Jones, Natalia Oseman, Daniel Sapier, Joe Suich, Natalie Catchpole, Robert Holdsworth, Sarah Eccles, Giselle Lowe, Zeenish Nasir, Lauren Tye, Katie Houldershaw, Brian Stokes, John Newnham, Steve Laquerrière, Will ThomasMillie Lane Robotham, Brogan Clish, Callum Donald Harry Fraser-Hurley, Daryl Jones, Grace James, Florence Meuwissen, Bethany Walton, Elisa Battersby, Jennie Watts, Becky Kelly, Matt Thorneycroft, Kym Cardona, Adelaide Robins, Rosie Whitelegg, Vicky Tuff, Talia Cunningham, Laura Huntenburg, Oliver Woodroffe, Angela Suriyakumaran, Leona Hubbard, Becky Oakes, Elizabeth Palmer, Victora Welborn, Jack Carlin, Danielle Griffin, Rochelle Armah, Chris Knott, Piraveena Siva, Francesca Murphy, Kate Didsbury, Pierre Jamal Harriot.

Appendix A: All Gender Toilet Feedback

Negative Feedback

- Don't like it, it's so awkward. The idea is so silly change it back to all girls.
- You'll create more problems than you think you'll solve.
- Female safety over trans feelings.
- Unused and dirty, please install urinals.
- I don't use them now. I don't think it respects my safety or privacy as a woman.
- It is beyond wank you shit fucks.
- Straight no! No ifs, no butt's.
- Hate it, it's gross and disgusting. So smelly now.
- I don't want boys to hear or smell my poo.
- As a mature student with a lot of life experience, I think a mixed gender toilet is unacceptable. I do not want to go into a toilet knowing a man is in a cubicle next to me. Unsafe is an understatement. Not forgetting a woman's time of the month, were we are sensitive as it is.
- Strongly disagree, no to all gender toilet. It is not safe to use in evenings pub and disco nights.
- Not a fan.
- Females make up over 50% of the population. Their safety should be more important to the union than the feelings of the few. Toilets were split by sex for a reason! Female safety > trans* feelings. I firmly believe that although those toilets are generating a lot of positive feedback – the fact even a small amount of females have expressed discomfort at the idea, they should be removed, concerns for our safety should be more important to the union. *Or whoever else they identify.
- Upgrade toilets – all toilets appear to be gender neutral on the campus. No debate there, upgrades still allow for privacy. However the male toilets were used to create yet another fast food outlet, getting more money from poor students. The argument should be upgrade the toilets like elsewhere on the campus, not scrimp by using a gender neutral sign and allowing poor outdated facilities to remain. Come on, spend some money on these loos!
- There are many current problems with the union. More toilets are not one of them. Down with the king!
- I identify as no gender, why is there not a no gender toilet?
- BUT as an afterthought, it is a lot grosser now. There is piss everywhere and unflushed loos. I like the idea but boys are gross.
- I'm not object to equality, but in terms of personal hygienity I'd rather use separate toilets. Please, please, please.
- Nope! Bad idea, unsafe.
- Gender is a performance, a toilet is not a stage.
- Might make a small minority more comfortable, but now the majority are uncomfortable!
- I think these toilets are an awful idea. I take into account they will have been done to accommodate those students who identify as a different gender and I understand that it

is awkward for them, but as a woman I feel like it's a slap in the face, either I get used to the idea of the all gender toilet or go find another, this offends me. I am for everyone getting to use the toilets they identify with the gender of, but many men and women will feel uncomfortable. Why not redo the toilets like the library?

- By making the old 'girls toilets' 'gender neutral' and keeping the old boys toilets just for boys/men this seems an invasion of female space oppose to real gender equality. It was a nice idea and a nice try, but instead of creating a 'gender neutral space' it feels like merely opening up a female space. Also, tackle the problem of trans-phobia at the root – transphobic issues.
- Not a big fan; those whom identify as a gender can use gender specific bathrooms and if genderless go in one that makes them feel comfortable. However I don't feel safe in them and want some privacy as a woman so do not like them, pro majority not minority.
- I'm not a fan it's weird.
- You clearly haven't read Act 15. If you have a problem with Levitical law talk to a jew, Christians aren't under law, we're under grace, read romans. Unchristian, just like the mixed-fabric clothing in the union shop.
- As long as gender remains an oppressive structure of patriarchy, it is wrong to swap and plays as it is with race. As a man, I feel I make females feel unsafe in the privacy of open toilets. I would bet a lot of money, there will be a serious incident this year. Female safety should outweigh the wants of a very small minority. The library format works.
- Firstly, the name inks me: gender is an oppressive hierarchical structure which aims (& achieves) the subjugation of female people. It is based on expectations of the sexes. There are none of these societal expectations at 'genderqueer' for example – as it is not linked to any sex, therefore these made up genders literally don't fit the definition of what oppression is. There is man and woman that is all. Secondly, I can only assume the decision to implement these toilets was based on pressure by third wave liberal feminists rather than on research done. If this was the case, than the Union would be aware that the risks to female safety massively outweigh the benefits the few people who use these toilets have gained. Males do attack females in bathrooms (this is a documented fact, google is your friend). While I understand the need for one or two gender neutral toilets (for all gender, non-conforming individuals) the layout of the library toilets (completely separated cubicles) is the only safe option.

Neutral Feedback

- Most awkward shit I've ever experienced... thanks for that.
- What is life, YOLO, why not
- Interesting idea, would prefer separate but when you gotta go, you gotta go.
- Everyone get over it, it's fine.
- Good idea, but now they are quite grimy.
- We float your boat.
- I have no strong opinion one way or the other.
- Peeing on the seat is inevitable, I feel sorry for girls going in after guys!
- I could not really care one way or another, because Rome was sort of like this.

- I have seen gender neutral toilets better implemented elsewhere, also guys leave seats up and that sucks.
- Music to play in the toilets to relax people.
- The wifi isn't as good as in the gendered toilets.
- It's alright.
- We already have gender neutral toilets in the library, and we didn't make a big deal about it calling them "all gender" (implying there are more than 2?) I'm okay with the idea, but by making such a big show of it this is clearly a way of just showing off how 'progressive' you are. Could have been handled better.
- People need to wash their hands.
- Seems quite bare, when I dropped a package, no one was there when I came out.
- I don't like the idea
- If men could aim it wouldn't be so bad. Trying to find a loo that's not been pee'd all over is not good when you're desperate!
- Perfect opportunity for inter-gender battle-shits.
- I go in there when I'm desperate for a quick piss... otherwise count me out!

Positive Feedback

- It's like the chamber of secrets but better for everyone.
- Really good idea.
- Excellent idea, people just need to learn to get along and aim better.
- Calm down, it's literally a toilet, imbeciles.
- Calm down Germaine Greer!
- All of you get a grip, it's a toilet.
- Great idea, it's only one toilet, pipe down!
- "Stop being so inclusive!" – Nobody ever.
- I like them, but the cubicles could do to be bigger.
- "Certainly the best piss I have ever had" – 5 stars.
- Best idea ever!!!
- Great idea, I can't see why anyone would have a problem with it.
- A bit stoned, but seems great!!
- If you don't like them, don't use them. They are a great idea.
- This is a good idea, but implemented incorrectly.
- Great idea. People who don't like it, don't have to go in it.
- Toilets are closer to Johnny Mac, 10/10.
- Great idea, I love them. Cheaper condoms.
- Excellent idea. There are now toilets for everyone.
- Although the toilets don't affect me personally I don't have a problem with them either. Overall I think they are good for the university as a whole.
- As a non-binary identifying person, I think is amazingly amazing.
- They are an excellent addition to the university and will undoubtedly help the welfare of our students!
- No big deal tbh, if I need a poo, I'll use it. If I don't need a poo, then I won't. Toilet is a toilet.

- It is a toilet. You poo in it, people get too worked up. That being said, the library is better.
- Much better than the men's toilet – it's great not having to stand in other people's piss! These bogs brighten my life.
- The all gender toilets are very helpful for me and I'm sure other students who identify as the opposite gender to which we were born. For trans people, it can be very intimidating using gendered toilets. If you don't like all gender toilets you can still use the gendered toilets.
- Great for those whom it concerns, in modern society gender identity is a sensitive object to which an all gender toilet would benefit. Although, for those who are offended, just use another gendered toilet! This option should still be available.
- Please put seats on all loos – everyone can use toilets; but not everyone wants to try peeing while standing.
- As a non-binary student this really makes me happy. I feel so comfortable being able to go to the bathroom without needing to choose between 'male' or 'female'. All the opposition confuses me. There are 'gendered' toilets for use by people who are uncomfortable. Don't take away the choice for people who need these facilities.
- Frankly I feel the inclusion of trans men and women are greater than catering to the wants of white cis people. Sit down. Nobody is looking at you. They just want the loo. Signed, an asexual student. PS trans women are women.
- Amazing idea, doesn't deny identities and all that and it makes people a bit safer if they can't use gendered loos.
- Great idea. Doesn't affect me, but for those who it has done, im sure it's benefitting them. Nice work, keep on rocking. Elvis lives.
- I like the idea. I think it is a step to equality for all those who do not identify as 1 gender! Keep it.
- The option to use these toilets is amazing! I also love the fact that the other gendered toilets have remained is a great thing. This allows free choice for all without marginalising anyone! Well thought out and implemented!
- As a trans person (non-binary) that to some people looks male and to some female, I appreciate the idea. It takes the away the stress of "what will people think if they see me going into this or that toilet". I don't have to make a (fake) gender declaration just because I want to pee. Nobody will stare at me or tell me I am in the wrong toilet because I don't look (fe)male enough. In some situations when everything else is stressing, it is good at least not to worry about how people will react if I just carry out a basic physiological function. So I am glad the union implemented the idea. Thank you! Let's make our uni survivable also to the rest of us.
- Yay, a toilet I am finally comfortable in, being agender, it means that I am not forced to use gendered toilets somewhere on campus.
- First, the toilet is safe. Stop acting like women are always victims and men are all rapists. For that matter, more witnesses means a safer environment. Second, if you don't like it, just use the other toilet. Having said that, the directions to segregated toilet is unneeded and pretentious. Finally, please calm down everyone. It's just a toilet. Also Tumblr, please go away.

- I'm a mature student who doesn't like the thought of sharing with males, but fine with men or trans people who identify as female. You have provided female only toilets as well as all gender, so everyone's needs are met. Everyone deserves respect and the freedom of choice. Brilliant.
- I think it's a fantastic idea. People worried about female safety should do a little research! If you're unhappy, feel free to use the female/male toilet, otherwise please refrain from pissing off the inclusion of trans students.
- Really good idea, it's convenient and allows people to choose without denying who they are.
- Think it's pretty ridiculous that there even needs to be a 'feedback wall' for something so obviously needed – everyone deserves to be able to use a loo that they feel they can go in without feeling uncomfortable or like they don't belong! Definitely keep it and ignore ignorant comments.
- Great idea, terrible marketing by the union. We need to keep them, I prefer to use the gents, but we need this safe space and to follow other SU's.
- It is a wonderful idea. We should cater for everyone. This helps the people that need it because they feel uncomfortable. We should all feel safe using toilet!
- I think they're great! Let's stop labelling ALL of the loos and just label them by function - like all other rooms.
- The importance of the installation of the gender neutral toilets cannot be stressed enough. The improvement of the day-to-day lives of trans and non-binary students (which is exactly what these toilets enable) is a non-negotiable right. They need to stay – it is vital.'
- 'Such a great idea, love it 😊'
- 'Why hasn't it been done sooner!'
- 'They're a great idea. Gendered toilets are available, get over yourselves.'
- 'Love it! So proud of my University <3'
- 'Really nice idea, gives a better option for any trans/non-binary students. Thanks HUU!!'
- 'I think the All Gender Toilets is a fab idea and has proved very very helpful. As a first aider at the uni we were able to have male volunteers help look after a friend in need with no rush or worry about being in there. They're a really great idea and hope that they stay!!!'
- 'They're great. More stalls and more hygienic than men's. Also no odd looks from people who think you're in the wrong toilet. #peedom'
- 'Great idea! I'd just appreciate it if the loo seat was put down.'
- 'Verse: Hello... its me... I was wondering if after all these years you'd like to pee...'
- Chorus: Hello from the other side, I must have pooped a thousand times...'
- 'Brilliant 😊 Glad to see the uni helping people 😊 xxx'
- 'Very inclusive. If you don't like them, don't use them. Think they're great!'
- 'I like to pee with my friends. If you don't like them, there are other toilets available. Great idea'.
- 'Doesn't bother me! They're clean! And everyone smiles because equality is being promoted'.
- 'Excellent that HUU is embracing the needs and the rights of the LGBT+ community. They wouldn't be needed if it wasn't for the abuse and harassment trans people suffer for just

going for a piss or a shit. If my fellow cis-people don't like them, there are plenty of gendered toilets around!!!'

- 'Had my reservations at the start but I agree that as long as they are kept clean, there is no problem. People feel more comfortable, so where is the problem? If you don't like them, go and use the gender specified. Stop isolating those who now feel more comfortable.'
 - 'Allows people the ability to go in the toilet without denying their identity. PS (to the person saying A Gender students can use these toilets.'
 - 'Really good idea, totally agree w/this idea!! ☺'.
 - 'They're essential as it's important for those not identifying as male or female or any gender at all etc to have a safe place to use the bathroom ☺. However as a cisgender female I would really appreciate it if everyone put the seat down when they were done!! Pet hate I know but puts me off using them! ☺'.
 - 'Good Idea!!! We all use the toilet for the same reason, so why does it have to be different gendered toilets? Don't you live with different genders? Do you have separated?'
 - 'Fantastic Idea' – exactly how it should be.'
 - 'I'm offended by people's narrow-mindedness...nothing else. If you don't like...don't use. Brilliant Idea! ☺'
 - 'Brilliant idea! Everybody deserves a toilet to use regardless of gender identity. If you are uncomfortable, gendered toilets are available everywhere.'
 - 'Love them – allows people to pee while being who they are! Love it!'
 - 'Toilets, basins, cubicles. Everything a bathroom needs. Lovely. 10/10 idea.'
 - 'As a woman, I find the above (negative comment) ridiculous; the university campus is a safe environment for all regardless of gender! Now... Sissy That Bog!'
 - 'LOVE IT. NEED IT. KEEP IT <3'
-