

## REPRESENTATIONAL NETWORKS

Representational Networks at Winchester Student Union are student-led groups which have an increased focus on advocating equality, diversity and accessibility within specific underrepresented student groups to directly improve the experience of students from the background they represent.

Through the establishment of Representational Networks, the Union recognises the importance of creating safe spaces where underrepresented student voices can be heard; building student communities and creating positive change through collective action, aiming to nurture and support, break down barriers, and ensure all students feel they belong.

Representational Networks represent self-identifying students belonging to student groups with protected characteristics specified within the Equality Act 2010 (including sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, disability and age), as well as other relevant student groups currently underrepresented in higher education, which includes but is not limited to:

- Liberation groups as defined by the National Union of Students (NUS)
- Students with more limited access to campus (e.g. commuting students and part-time students)
- Mature students
- Young adult carers
- Care leavers
- Students from areas of low higher education participation, low household income or low socioeconomic status

Representational Networks are student-led and run in much the same way as a society is run, working to provide a welcoming and safe space for students who self-identify as belonging to an underrepresented group to meet each other and socialise whilst at university; running events and developing campaigns to ensure that all students are able to engage and develop at Winchester.

Representational Networks observe all requirements and guidelines outlined for societies in Bye-law 4: Activities, however it is recognised that some networks will be minority student groups, and as such, Representational Networks have the following additional membership allowances:

### Setting up a new Representational Network

Students wishing to set up a new Representational Network must complete the requirements outlined in Section 4, however their signed sheet requires at least 10 signatures (instead of the usual 15 for societies). Once passed by the Executive Committee at least 5 members must have joined the Network within four University working weeks (instead of the usual 10 for societies).

### Representational Network Dissolution

Section 5 applies if a Representational Network has less than 5 members in any academic year (instead of the usual 10 members for societies). If a Representational Network is in danger of suspension or dissolution due to lack of membership, at the request of the Network Winchester Student Union will undertake additional targeted promotional work of the Network to the wider student body with the aim to boost membership.

Representational Networks will have additional increased support from Winchester Student Union to campaign on issues of concern, interest and relevance in relation to the student group they are representing.