

Item 16.7

Notices of Motion

Abolishing University of Sydney Residential Colleges

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the recent incident, reported widely in October, at St Paul's College where 6 students were expelled and a further 21 suspended after engaging in acts of 'serious humiliation' and sexual violence against a student;
- (B) Council note the findings of *The Red Zone Report*, co-authored by investigative journalist, Nina Funnell and End Rape on Campus Ambassador, Anna Hush, including:
 - (i) that a culture of misogyny and sexism is rife within residential colleges;
 - (ii) a longstanding history of aggressive, sexually violent and dangerous behaviours exhibited within residential colleges, including gang rape and murder, over many decades;
 - (iii) that hazing and ritual humiliation of students within residential colleges has a long and well-documented history, with victim-survivors reporting self-harm and, in some cases, suicide; and
 - (iv) that the very social structure of the residential colleges creates the conditions that enable and propagate rampant abuse and misogyny;
- (C) Council recognise the collective efforts and campaigning for decades to end these practices, including the:
 - (i) long-running campaign led by the University of Sydney Women's Collective to abolish the colleges; and
 - (ii) community vigil to support victim-survivors of sexual violence on 5 November 2024 attended by students, staff and allies, with speakers including Rand Khatib, Martha Barlow, Lizzie Jarrett, Anu-Ujin Khulan, Lilah Thurbon and Jenny Leong MP;
- (D) Council adopt the position that:
 - (i) all students should live free from the threat of sexual violence, bullying, intimidation and hazing rituals;
 - (ii) all students deserve access to affordable, accessible, safe and hygienic housing; and
 - (iii) the NSW Government should abolish private residential colleges and replace them with affordable, accessible, safe housing for students that are publicly-owned or student-owned and run; and

- (E) the Lord Mayor be requested to write in support of the campaign to abolish the private residential colleges and replace them with affordable, accessible and safe student housing that is publicly-owned or student-owned and run, to:
- (i) NSW Premier Chris Minns;
 - (ii) NSW Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Steve Whan; and
 - (iii) Federal Minister for Education Jason Clare.

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