



Motion for Change

EC25 – Private Accommodation Advice

Submission:

That the Students' Union and President of Wellbeing and Diversity work with the University and City of York Council to improve support for students in private housing; and lobby for an advice service of some kind, either with the University or the Students' Union, so that students are not left without any housing advice or support after leaving University managed accommodation.

At YSJU and YJSU, there are no provisions in place to support students who are tenants in private rented accommodation, apart from financial aid via the student support fund. Whilst this is beneficial, issues with housing go way beyond this. Students have issues with rental payments, but also: finding guarantors, finding housemates, housemate disputes, knowing their rights as a tenant, knowing the ins and outs of contracts, to name a few. As PWD this year, I have had many students come to me about the issues above, and I have signposted to the hardship fund and City of York Council, but I wish there was more than could be done to help students, as the stress that comes with many of these issues has an impact. There are also students, such as WP, Estranged and Care Leavers, who cannot get support from family financially, or lean on them for advice. For context, many students who apply for the University support fund apply to help with housing related issues (which has soared during the Covid-19 Crisis). I believe more than ever that students need as much support as possible in regard to housing.