

POLICY PROPOSAL

Policy Title:	Allies Matter	Date Policy Proposed:	26/01/16
Proposer name:	Leigh Rooney/Hannah Chan	Student ID Number:	Experience Officer (Essex)/LGBT+ Students' Rep (Chelmsford)

Union Notes:

- Students who are not comfortable in disclosing their sexual orientation/gender/preference may be put off voting in the LGBT+ Rep elections.
- Students who do not define as LGBT+ may still have shared interests/views in the interests of students who define as LGBT+.
- There are various definitions of what an 'ally' is: "a person, group, or nation that is associated with another or others for some common cause or purpose". In this context, an ally would be defined as a person who supports, listens and votes for the benefit of the LGBT+ community, whether they are openly defined or undefined sexual orientation/gender/preference.
- Students that are compassionate and support the LGBT+ community may want to define as an 'ally' to cast a vote in the election to express their support.

Union Believes:

- Allowing students who do not explicitly define as LGBT+ to vote in the election will create unity within the student body centred on this movement.
- A greater proportion of student views will be represented in the LGBT+ election
- Students who are not comfortable in disclosing their sexual orientation/gender/preference should still have the opportunity to vote on who will potentially represent them.

Union Resolves:

- To allow students to define as an 'ally' which will enable them to vote in the LGBT+ rep election.
- Students who define as an ally should have the best interests of students who define as LGBT+ when voting.
- The union will ensure that only people who define as LGBT+ or an LGBT+ ally can vote for the representative in the election.

