



## SOCIAL POLICY COMMISSION 17/18

### Meeting #6

University of Malta, the KSU Common Room  
16th November 2017, 18.30

### MINUTES

1. Approval of Agenda  
Approved Nem Con
2. Approval of minutes  
Approved Nem Con
3. Legalisation of Marijuana  
Gabriella Sutton: Before delving into discussion, have you all collected your voting card and signed the attendance form?

As you well know, we've been discussing the prospect of legalisation of marijuana. The position taken during the last meeting was that of formulating a document with research on how marijuana could be legalised, express our concerns with the current state of affairs and legislation on the matter and this consequently allows for a more informed position. Today we'll go through that document and take a vote.

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): Isn't it better if it's sent out to organisations and subcommittees?

Gabriella Sutton: The topic has been previously discussed in KPS and we'd like to be more efficient in the process. We'll go through it together and you can formulate an opinion. It will most definitely be at your end after the meeting.

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): It will be too late then.

Gabriella Sutton: The main points have already been discussed in previous KPS meetings in recent months.

*GhST left - Proxy TSA*

Let's start going through it together.  
*Read out main points of document*

*'Should full legalisation be implemented, even under the same restrictions as alcohol or tobacco, not only will it be regulated and taxed by the government, but it may also eliminate the need for dealers and traffickers which in turn may eliminate the need for police. At this point policing operation on cannabis will be left to keeping check*



*regulation are being followed, and monitoring the usage by the populace (as done with alcohol).'*

Cynthia Chircop (We Are): with regards to the elimination of dealers, cigarettes and alcohol have been decriminalised but there is still a black market for it. Perhaps it can be amended to reduction in the need for police intervention.

Gabriella Sutton: Yes, that's a valid point, we can change it as proposed.

*UoMR returned vote and left room.*

Mathias Mallia (Insite): Where it says that it's not a gateway drug, Caritas say something that is completely opposite and claim that there are studies saying it's a gateway drug. Are you prepared to go against this?

Gabriella Sutton: If you wish we can expand on the argument and include more details.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): The opposing argument is completely opposite. Will we be able to take a position if it's a completely opposing view?

Gabriella Sutton: This document is there to inform us and serve as a point of information.

Jonathan Ebejer (Siera): There's the whole argument that the gateway drug issue is very personal and it's hard to tell whether it's actually because they're predisposed or whether they were willing to take it in the first place as a gateway drug.

Cynthia Chircop (We Are): With regards to the recommendation on better education, PSD and religion teachers tend to base their information on what Caritas says. How will this change if we say something that is completely opposite to what Caritas is saying, given that they specify it's a gateway drug.

Gabriella Sutton: We'll see how we can incorporate this.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): We need a nation-wide campaign of information, not just schools.

Gabriella Sutton: We can amend it to be more general. Do you have any concerns, questions or anything you wish to add?

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): I still think we shouldn't take a vote today.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): Look at the amount of voting cards on the desk - many of them are still there.



Hanien Alouzi (SHS): We didn't really read the document ourselves therefore we cannot make an informed decision like that. Perhaps for future KPS it's sent beforehand.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): Can't we have another KPS meeting?

Steve Galea (S-Cubed): Even in a normal debate session, it takes more sense to take a vote during a future KPS.

Gabriella Sutton: If you wish that we have another meeting next week specifically for this then we can proceed that way. Our intention was not to blind you with this. We just wanted to further discuss something that's already been discussed.

Hanien Alouzi (SHS): Next week we can take a decision during Admin meeting.

Carla Galea (KSU): On the 20th we have an admin meeting. We'll send you the document, you can go through it, we meet up before or after and take a vote then. Do you all agree with that?

Gabriella Sutton: We'll proceed in the way Carla explained. We'll take a position during the next KPS meeting. We do appreciate the feedback you're giving us so make sure to come forward if you have anything to say.

#### 4. Upcoming Campaigns.

We have European Week for Waste Reduction coming up. We are collaborating with a number of organisations and we do appreciate your presence and support. There's the launch and R-Cubed workshop on tuesday, ESA screening on Thursday and a Clean-up on Saturday 25th. All details on our facebook page. We're also going to introduce a Clothes bin on campus for clothes donations.

We're also collaborating with the Commission on Domestic Violence for the Love doesn't Hurt campaign. A number of organisations are organising training workshops for their respective faculties. On the 6th of December there's a discussion in Common Room on Emotional Violence in Youth Relationships. We encourage you all to attend.

#### 5. General updates

The Campaign+ deadline has been extended. All details are on our facebook event. Take this opportunity to win 300eur to implement a project related to the theme. 300eur aren't a joke.

Next Sunday there's the President's Fun Run. Applications are to be picked up from the KSU office.



Students' House  
University of Malta

Msida MSD 2080 With regards to Christmas on Campus, make sure to contact Harley by tomorrow if you have any updates or plan on organising something.

356 2340 2104

info@ksu.org.mt With regards to the University Prospectus, we originally asked you for a one-liner but it's been shortened due to space limitation.



Cynthia Chircop (We Are): 1st of all I'm here representing We Are but I also take care of the 16 days of activism campaign. Please send me any promotional material that you have. Secondly, what we can do as KPS is take a photo with all the student representatives to take action against domestic violence, perhaps on the 6th of December.

Gabriella Sutton: Yes that's a very good idea.

Meeting adjourned 19.40



## SOCIAL POLICY COMMISSION 17/18

Follow-up meeting  
University of Malta, the KSU Common Room  
20th November 2017, 17.30  
17.30

### MINUTES

Gabriella Sutton: Hello everyone. I hope you've all went through the updated the document that we sent you. It's important to keep in mind that its purpose is that of earning an informed perspective on the issue of marijuana.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): What I'd like to draw attention to is that campaigns shouldn't only be aimed towards students and parents - we agreed that it will be more general.

Gabriella Sutton: as it is, the sentence incorporates everyone.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): Why are we limiting it?

Gabriella Sutton: We can remove parents.

Mathias Mallia (Insite): Realistically, no parent will agree.

Gabriella Sutton: Do you all agree that we remove students and parents so it's directed to the public in general?

Ok so we'll amend accordingly.

Are there any other comments?

Gabriella: IF there are no furhter comments we will move on to voting. Just to go over the voting procedure, we start with against, abstentions and in favour. If you don't raise your voting card it will automatically lead o a vote in favour.

We can proceed to a vote.

Vote to endorse the document that focuses on the fain elements of legalisation of marijuana

Abstentions: MKSU, UBG, GHST, AIESEC, UoMR, UESA, KSU.

Against: None

In Favour: *The rest of the organisations who haven't voted*

Document has passed.



Gabriella Sutton: As discussed in previous KPS meetings, it is now time to take a position as student organisations. We can use the recommendations as our position:

- Nation-wide campaign
- Medical marijuana in terms of better research as to the use of medical marijuana in the context
- Address of recreational marijuana

*IAESTE entered the room and collected their vote*

Mathias: there is a roadmap for how it's going to be legalised next year. Sources have told me that it will be legalised next year, heavily medical. With regards to recreational you can smoke it at home, but there's no way you'd be able to smoke it in public. For personal use it's purely private home-based personal use.

Gabriella: the recommendation focuses on legal age, production and distribution and cultivation.

Mathias Mallia: the legal age will be 21. Nothing is set in stone yet but that's what I've been told.

Gabriella Sutton: I'll repeat what we'll be taking a position on: education, medical and recreational in terms of cultivation, age.

The vote is that we as organisations will be taking a position on this matter: educational campaign, medical recreational.

MKSU: as a block?

Gabriella Sutton: Yes

Abstentions: UBG, MKSU, GhST, AIESEC, MMSA, DESA, UoMR, IAESTE.

Against: None

In favour: *The rest of the organisations who haven't voted*

Gabriella Sutton: Just to make it clear, all those who didn't vote are in favour.

Meeting adjourned. 18.10