

St Catherine's College Executive Committee

Open Meeting

Sunday, 23rd November 2014

Present: 31

Meeting Aims:

1. Minutes from Open Meeting 9th November 2014

1.1. Matters arising from minutes

2. Motion for this MCR to Pledge Support to Oxford UNICEF On Campus' Petition for an End to Child Violence:

Text of Motion:

This MCR notes that:

According to a recent UNICEF report, every five minutes, a child is killed by violence.¹² Not only is this a result of military conflict, but also interpersonal conflict that happens all over the world. Millions of children are also subject to physical, emotional and sexual abuse, with many unsafe even in their own homes; furthermore, estimates indicate as many as 275 million—1 in 7—children are *witness* to violence in the home, leaving lifelong scars.³ Here in the UK, every year, 7 per cent of children are victims of violent crime, and a quarter of young people have been subjected to one or more forms of sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.⁴

Despite these stark realities, the experience of the past decade reminds us **violence can be successfully prevented**. Particularly in industrialised countries, rates of violent crime have fallen dramatically. Critical to this are vigilance and concerted action by governments across the world, not only through collection of data and evidence in tracking progress and ensuring accountability, but a sustained commitment to ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

¹ United Nations Children's Fund (2014), 'Children in Danger: Act to End Violence Against Children, available at http://www.unicef.org/uk/Documents/Publications/Unicef_ChildreninDanger_ViolencereportW.pdf.

² *Global Health Estimates (GHE) Summary Tables: Deaths by cause, age, sex and region, 2012* (WHO, Geneva, 2014), recalculated by UNICEF; children aged 0-19, as cited in United Nations Children's Fund (2014), op cit.

³ United Nations Children's Fund (2006), 'Behind Closed Doors: The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children', available at <http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf>.

⁴ Office for National Statistics (2014) 'Crime in England and Wales: Year ending December 2013', Statistical Bulletin, available at http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_360216.pdf p96; and for LT prevalence 18 - 24 see Lorraine Radford, Susana Corral, Christine Bradley, Helen Fisher, Claire Bassett, Nick Howat, and Stephen Collishaw, (undated), Child abuse and neglect in the UK today. London: NSPCC, available at http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/findings/child_abuse_neglect_research_PDF_wdf84181.pdf p89, as cited in United Nations Children's Fund (2014), op cit.

Next year sees the expiry of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); following international negotiations new goals will be introduced in September. Failures to adequately address abuse of children have impeded progress in the achievement of the MDGs. It is time to confront these facts, seizing the opportunity through concerted action to systematically document and end violence, building a safer world for the world's children.

This MCR resolves to:

Lend its support as an organisation to Oxford UNICEF On Campus' petition to the UK government and opposition leaders, for them to support UNICEF UK's campaign for the inclusion of a target to end violence towards children as part of the post-2015 International Development goals.

Presented by Aeden Pillai - Member, St Catherine's College MCR, on behalf of Oxford UNICEF On Campus

Seconded by Moctar Kané

Questions and Discussion:

Katharine Biddle: What do you mean by child violence? Is it just physical violence?

Aedan: No, it is meant by personal circumstances as well. Statistics are wide-ranging across the board regarding the damaging effects. Not a silver bullet to say that something will get done, but it will hopefully at least get it on the agenda. Even knowing what is going on with children is a first step and then in theory can move towards more action.

Serkan Birgel- Where is petition going?

Aedan: To the Prime minister's office, the Secretary of State for International Development and the respective opposition leaders.

Motion passed by majority vote.

3. Proposed Constitutional Amendments:

- 3.1. Discussion on Amending the Current Status of Seconding Nominations for Elections
- 3.2. Proposal to Amend Article VIII (j) of the constitution as follows:

Current Wording:

In the event of any Executive Officer of the MCR Committee resigning, a by-election shall be held as soon as possible during Full Term. A successful candidate at such election shall serve out only the remaining period of office of his/her predecessor.

Proposed Amendment:

In the event of any Executive Officer of the MCR Committee resigning, a by-election shall be held as soon as possible during Full Term. Such a vacancy shall be advertised on the MCR email list. Candidates shall inform the Secretary via email of their decision to contest the position no later than 36 hours before the election. In the event that no one puts themselves forward, nominations may be

re-opened and remain open until the election itself which will immediately follow hustings. Due to the short notice in which a by-election is called, any ordinary MCR member that cannot attend the hustings due to a valid prior commitment – with what constitutes as a valid commitment to be judged by the Co-Presidents - may still contest by emailing the Secretary beforehand with a short speech to be read out on their behalf by the Chair at hustings. All other rules and procedures regarding campaigning, hustings and the elections themselves for by-elections shall remain the same as for the annual election. A successful candidate at such election shall serve out only the remaining period of office of his/her predecessor'.

Proposed by: John Kenny

Seconded by: Martin Garthwaite

Questions and Discussion:

Discussion on focused on related amendment of options for changing system for seconding candidates following request for discussion on the issue by Serkan Birgel. Two options presented by John:

1. Insert clause that members of the executive committee would not be able to second nominations.
2. Insert clause that individuals would only be able to second one individual per position.

Jan Vonk: Noted that it would make sense for executive members not to second individuals.

Serkan – Felt that it would sufficient to start off by implementing proposals that someone can only second one person per position.

Overall decision to vote on second option in isolation. Both the vote on this and on the above amendments were passed by a majority. This will now be taken to the Graduate Committee meeting in Hilary term in order to proceed to the next stage necessary to implement the amendment.

4. AOB

4.1 Julian Malisano– Rugby Match Announcement:

- There will be an MCR outing to attend the Oxford Blues match in Twickenham. Ticket sales close on 1st December and tickets will be booked sometime this week. They cost £15 and can probably get good discounts with good number of people attending.

4.2 Serkan Birgel – Announcement of Django Unchained as MCR movie for the evening.