

# **Third Proposed Rules Change**

## **Rule 71 (a) (i) (28) (creation of a new subsection)**

Violation of the Debate Selection Committee Equity Policy as laid out in Standing Order B14 at any Oxford Union debating competition or at which a member represents the Union at any external competition.

## **Standing Order B14 (existing SOs B14 and 15 to become SO 15 and 16 respectively)**

### **Debates Selection Committee Equity Policy**

All members have a responsibility to behave in a responsible and equitable way both when within the Union and when at external competitions or events. This applies to members regardless of whether they are speaking, judging, running the competition or watching, and it applies not only during speeches and socials but at any time. The following will not be tolerated (points adapted from WUDC Berlin's Code of Conduct):

- Engaging in offensive language or behaviour;
- Making denigrating comments based on any grounds, especially of age, national or ethnic origin, race, sex, gender, disability, religion or sexuality;
- Harassing, threatening or intimidating others in any way;
- Damaging or destroying any property that does not belong to you;
- Harassing, threatening or intimidating others to vote in a particular way;
- Any other conduct violating the legal rights of others.

Individual competitions should have a designated Equity Officer or Team, who should be empowered to investigate and respond to complaints made against anyone attending the competition (including but not limited to debaters, judges, chief adjudicators and organisers). Competitions should publicise their individual Equity Policy (including guidance on how to make a complaint and the range of responses that may be taken) before the tournament.

Complaints made against Oxford Union members, whether representing Oxford at the time or not, may be followed up in accordance with Rule 71, with particular reference to 71 (a) (i) (28). DSC's Access, Community & Equity Officer should be willing to handle such complaints if necessary.