

1130 Passed 3 February

Condemning Kettling

Proposer: Tim David Miller (ENV 2)

Seconder: Matthew Francis Taylor (PSI Other UG)

Union notes:

- 1) That the tactic of kettling has been used in recent student demonstrations.
- 2) That this tactic has been used to kettle protesters, including minors, for up to nine hours without food, appropriate facilities or access to medical assistance for those who require it and have been refused the ability to leave.
- 3) That a number of individuals have suffered serious injuries, such as bleeding to the brain, as a result of police action during recent kettles.
- 4) That a senior doctor warned that police would risk repeating a Hillsborough-type tragedy if they continued with the tactics employed in recent student demonstrations, as reported in The Observer on 19th December 2010.
- 5) That members of UUEAS were kettled on 9th December in Parliament Square and on Westminster Bridge for several hours.
- 6) That no members of UUEAS were arrested or put under investigation for their actions on 9th December.
- 7) That Early Day Motion 1257 has been written, which condemns kettling and calls on the government to take steps to stop this practise.
- 8) That "hyper kettling" has been proposed by Hugh Orde, which involves deliberately making the confinement area smaller to reduce the comfort of the crowds and which he himself has admitted breaches civil liberties.

Union believes:

- 1) That kettling is an aggressive, intimidating, aggravating tactic.
- 2) That the vast majority of protesters in the recent student demonstrations were peaceful, and that the small amount of violence that has occurred at the demonstrations occurred after the use of kettling.
- 3) That kettling amounts to false imprisonment and is an infringement on the fundamental right to peaceful protest.
- 4) That taking steps to avoid kettling is legitimate.
- 5) That, having knowledge of the effects of kettling, it is inconsistent for a civilised government to condone such actions.

Union resolves:

- 1) To write to Simon Wright requesting that he signs EDM 1257.
- 2) To write to Aaron Porter urging him to publicly condemn the Metropolitan Police for the use of kettling.
- 3) To write to the chief commissioner of the Metropolitan Police condemning the practice of kettling.
- 4) To contact the chief commissioner of the Norfolk police force advising

against the use of kettling.

5) To contact the Vice Chancellor and call upon him to condemn kettling.

6) To provide a fact sheet for those attending UUEAS sanctioned demonstrations explaining what kettling is, how to avoid it, and what to do in a kettle.

7) To mandate UUEAS officers to uphold the duty of care they have to members who are caught in a police kettle. For example, by stopping Union run coaches from leaving any protesters behind for as long as physically possible.