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CC: **Eoin Hand** <president@tcdsu.org>; **Megan O' Connor** <education@tcdsu.org>;
offcampus@tcdsu.org <offcampus@tcdsu.org>
Subject: JCR events banned
Date: 12.12.2021 00:15:21 (+01:00)

Dear Eva, dear Rory,

I am writing to you as Chairperson of Students4Change to express our utmost solidarity for you and offer any resources we have to support the JCR following the proceedings of the Covid-19 Management Team of College on the 7th of December. We were contacted by a few students from Trinity Halls about the lack of events planned for Christmas and I casually asked the Student Union Presidents about this.

As you know, an event had taken place on the 2nd of December in Trinity Halls called "Deck the Halls", which was previously approved by the College. However, the event had gone awry, through no fault of the JCR, with students being drunk (due to the vendor at the event inside Halls serving mulled wine instead of a non-alcoholic beverage as promised) while getting on buses and allegedly being rude to staff.

On the 9th of December at the Trinity Living with Covid group, it was revealed that "no JCR events will take place until the review has been completed". This review that will be conducted is about the "lessons learned" from the event involving all stakeholders, and it will be presented at a future meeting of the Covid-19 Management Team.

We consider the actions of College to be a detached response from the conditions on-the-ground. Firstly, College has previously approved the event and as such should not punish the JCR, but support them and Halls students. It is not the fault of the JCR that things got out of control, especially in light of how underfunded and understaffed the JCR is. Finally, with the events at Trinity Halls transpiring last year relating to how rude and heavy-handed the Wardens and security were, I am not surprised if some returning students have lost hope in members of staff to understand student concerns.

I have equally spoken to Leah, President of the TCDSU, and Gisèle, President of the TCDGSU, on the phone and we share similar concerns. I am aware that they were both present at the meeting and provided support for the JCR, not to mention the recently-signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) approved at the 3rd TCDSU Council. We need to collectively figure out ways to support the JCR more, for which the MOA is a good first step.

Finally, let me express my disappointment with College acting the grinch of Christmas and banning JCR events, especially for those Irish, EU and non-EU students staying at Trinity Halls over the holidays. Inevitably, students will stay in Trinity Halls (e.g. those who cannot go back to their families) and accommodations need to be made to ensure that they can enjoy the holidays. For example, they might want to have a Christmas party, or other holiday festivities supported by the JCR, which should be allowed to go ahead under the relevant government guidelines.

We understand the frustrations of students in these difficult times where we are put under immense pressure, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the exam season, and must provide them with all the support and socialisation activities we can. This puts the JCR in a difficult situation, but we over at Students4Change would like to join with the TCDSU, TCDGSU and Halls students to offer any resources at our disposal to you.

Best Regards,

László Molnárfi

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Students 4 Change

Chairperson



is an alliance of Marxist and Anarchist students from Trinity College Dublin focused on the housing crisis in relation to student accommodation, Irish neutrality, SU reform and other matters of student politics. Go on our website students4change.eu, follow us on social media or email us at contact@students4change.eu!

