

Liste der unabhängigen kritischen Student*innen (LUKS)- List of independent, critical students



Self-conception (in English)

Introduction

LUKS (Liste der unabhängigen kritischen Student*innen¹ - List of independent critical students) is an open leftist university group at Passau University.

We are currently focusing on the issues of anti-fascism and feminism, but we are also addressing anti-capitalism, critical education and climate justice as well as condemning antisemitism and racism. We have set our minds to actively improve society through critical thinking and actions at university as well as in this city, and we will strive for this purpose by different means: Our special focus lies on political education through events, such as talks, workshops or the presentation of films. Once a month, we will organize “LUKS & Friends” – an open exchange of ideas, where we will discuss a wide range of political issues. Furthermore, we will organize demonstrations and creative protest actions as well as cultural offers, such as “Küfas” (“Küche für Alle” – kitchen for everyone) or parties to get to know each other, to form networks or simply to get together.

You will find here short statements on our positions regarding issues, that are especially important to us.

Fight for feminism!

Although people have been fighting for feminism for many decades, sexism is still deeply rooted in our society. The wrong assumption of two natural together with the strict definition of their roles and their unequal power structure are still an integral part of our socialization. Everybody is confronted with the expectation and requirement to fulfill their roles, otherwise they have to face exclusion and discrimination. The consequences for women* are disastrous: Bound to the role defined by their gender, they are being suppressed and exploited physically and sexually as well as psychologically and verbally through degrading comments and jokes. In advertising, women* are often reduced to their bodies. What is more, they are still shouldering a large part of our reproductive work – e.g. house work or care work – which is often paid very poorly, if at all. We are not willing to accept the patriarchal power mechanisms. Instead we intend to fight them through analysis and criticism.

1 In our German texts, we use the "gender-star" to draw attention to the fact, that there are not only two, but many genders (e.g. trans or inter people). We want to make clear that people's "gender" is not natural and unvarying, but only a construct of society.

Racism kills!

We will not silently condone racist structures or actions – neither at university nor in other places. Racism is a structural problem in our society: People of Color² often have to endure racist phrases and racism in their daily lives and they are routinely confronted with institutional and cultural racism, e.g. when looking for apartments, jobs or during police checks. It is the dominant racist stereotypes that lead to structural discrimination of PoC. These stereotypes are adopted by right-wing groups and political parties like Pegida and AfD, but also by liberal protagonists, who use them and reproduce them in various ways. Their racist view of the world is strongly related to a rising nationalism, which in turn leads to deadly frontier policies in Europe. One consequence of this is: Racism kills, because people are drowning in the Mediterranean Sea and homes of refugees are burning. We want a society that is free of racist violence, offering the right and the possibility of free movement for everybody.

Alerta Antifascista!

We reject all forms of nationalism. Above all, we criticize the fact that randomly fixed national borders are being linked to the construct of national identities, because as a consequence, people often give up their individual autonomy and blindly allow themselves to be integrated into a national collective. This is the prerequisite for the differentiation between some alleged “We” and the “Others”, which in itself is the basis for the descent into fascist thinking. For this reason, we see ourselves as an anti-fascist group. We take a stand against any form of (extremely) rightist actions and thoughts, such as historical revisionism, antisemitism, racism and sexism, as well as against fascist tendencies in some liberal political parties and institutions.

There are numerous groups on the extreme right in Passau and its surroundings, such as the AfD, oriented toward the model of the “völkischer ‘Flügel’”, or the “III. Weg” and fraternity-style movements, which in some cases must be considered “Neo-Nazi”. Therefore it is true for our university and all other places: There is no such thing as a quiet “Hinterland”. (There are no quiet rural areas.)

2 People/Person of Color is the acknowledged expression for all people facing racism, as opposed to white people.

Critical education

Education can only be of use, if it is created equally by all people and if it is accessible to all people (keyword: affordable living and learning).

We demand democratic participation of everyone involved in this university. An essential part of this is an institutionalized student body through which students can organize and manage themselves and another part is equal representation of all status groups in all administrative bodies of this university.

We criticize the ongoing use of capitalist mechanisms in our university systems. Scientific work and teaching activities are increasingly determined by profits. Thus, education and science as an end in themselves have been banned from universities. Another symptom of this is the precarious employment situation at universities.

We demand an education that encourages debate with critical social theories and serves the students in their effort to find a suitable way of life. Since this is not sufficiently offered at Passau University, we see it as our own task to facilitate critical political education in many different ways.

Fight Capitalism!

We reject the dominant economic system of capitalism. It is based on the logic of exploitation, excessive power of masculinity, exploitation of people and nature as well as on the unequal distribution of wealth. Among its consequences are people living in sub-standard conditions, the degradation of female* reproductive work (in housekeeping and in care) and the acceptance of climate change and the destruction of our environment for profit. We are convinced that capitalism is neither natural nor self-evident and we try to oppose the capitalistic logic of exploitation within the limits of our means and capabilities. We strive to implement social coexistence based on true need and solidarity!