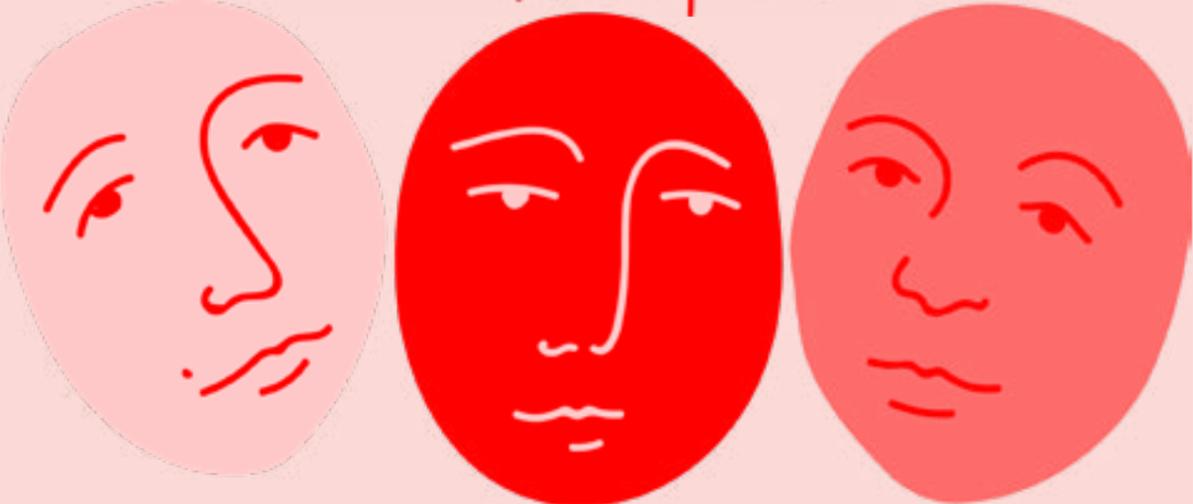


COMMON GROUND



MANIFESTO

We share the Common Ground that:

- Structures of racism, classism and colonialism pervade Oxford University in a variety of ways including through the University's admissions process, teaching structure, curricula, and iconography. Moreover, people of colour and those from working class and underprivileged backgrounds are chronically under-represented at all levels of the University.
- Structures of racism and classism are inherently linked, and they cannot be properly understood independently of each other.
- Racism and classism remain in Oxford as the most prominent and fundamental products of Imperialism.
- White privilege, namely, the societal advantages that those identified as white have over people of colour, is pervasive within British society, but especially within Oxford.
- Institutional racism, whereby institutional structures are inherently discriminatory against people of colour, is also pervasive within British society, and especially within Oxford.
- The University of Oxford holds a position of extreme privilege in the world owing to its colonial past, economic, academic and social power, and its links to the establishment.
- The University of Oxford functions as a place for the production of ideas, and often the ideas which become hegemonic.
- Public space is necessarily political and functions in Oxford in a way which creates safe spaces for some and unsafe spaces for others.
- Colonialism is inextricably linked to Oxford's past and continues in its present, both through its historic relationship with the former British Empire and Imperial project, and its perpetuation of imperial legacies.

Common Ground resolves to:

- Raise, investigate, discuss, and challenge issues of racism, classism, and colonialism at Oxford. We aim not to 'erase history' but rather to challenge the 'erasure' and 'whitewashing of history'; with the aim to make issues of race, class, and colonialism a central part of discourse, discussion, conversation and action within the University of Oxford and the wider city.
- Ensure that the voices of those who identify as people of colour and working class or underprivileged are central to the movement. Further, to privilege, where possible, the voices of those who identify as female, non binary, disabled, or LGBTQ+.
- Empower as many members of the University as possible to challenge colonialism, classism and racism at Oxford. We will support any members efforts to hold events, start protests, and spark conversations about these oppressive structures.
- Put pressure on the University to ensure as far as possible that institutional reforms are never allowed to be purely tokenistic and do not justify further inaction when more change is always needed.
- Push for the Decolonisation of Oxford's curricula and iconography, the reform of its admission system, and for greater representation of people of colour and those from working class and underprivileged backgrounds at all levels of the University.
- Work inside and outside the walls of the University; we strive to involve the wider Oxford community as far as possible as well to complement other national and international decolonial movements.
- Make full use of Oxford's privilege and our collective privilege as students at Oxford University.
- Take up space at Oxford, and to challenge colonial and racist spaces at Oxford through our occupation and use of them.
- Reflect our aims in the way we run our movement. Common Ground will strive to be as democratic, representative, horizontal and open as possible. We further aim to make sure that those at the core of the movement will as far as possible be people of colour and those who identify as working class or underprivileged.
- Welcome the support of all who share our aims, and recognise and value the power of allies; given the dominance of whiteness and privilege at Oxford the movement must be collective and collaborative in order to be successful.