Motion 6 – Women’s Lives Matter

**Submitted by: Leeds Socialist Students**

1) Domestic violence is a serious issue – 2 women a week are killed by a male current or ex-partner in the UK with a further 3 women a week killing themselves to escape abuse.

2) Services for women and children fleeing domestic violence have been slashed, almost a quarter of all council funding across the UK has been cut. In Leeds alone, cuts of 50% were made in the 2011-12 financial year, with a further 9% in 2012-13 which resulted in one of two domestic violence refuges in Leeds closing.

3) Whilst councils face huge cuts from central government, we should start building mass campaigns with local councillors in opposition to all cuts and demand back stolen funding, local councils  should use their reserves and borrowing powers to create legal no-cuts budgets to ensure such domestic violence services are fully funded. We also call on an incoming Labour government to reimburse councils that have drawn on such funds to protect services.

4) In Leeds, the Women’s Lives Matter campaign has been campaigning for the full funding of such services and against other austerity measures that contribute towards the vulnerability of women and children. Anywhere there are similar campaigns, or services under threat, Socialist Student branches should support these campaigns and do what they can to raise awareness through meetings and protests.

5) Socialist Students should do what it can to stop the degradation of our services by this Tory government and help protect some of the most vulnerable people in society.