



# TCD Students' Union Statement On the De-Naming of the X Library

26 April 2023

Today, the University Board of Trinity College Dublin voted to dename the library currently bearing the philosopher George Berkeley's name, a former slave-owner and vocal proponent of slavery. It will soon launch a community consultation to choose a new name.

The Rename the Berkeley Campaign began as a grassroots effort from students troubled by his commemoration within the college: the Berkeley Memorial Window in the College Chapel, medals which are named after him, and most notably, the Berkeley Library. On Feb 22nd 2022, TCDSU voted to support a grassroots petition to rename the library that was brought by Louie Lyons — who was a first-year middle Eastern, Jewish and Islamic civilisations class representative at the time. On August 23rd 2022, TCDSU de-named the Berkeley Library in all of its communications. Over the last year, I worked with the Trinity Colonial Legacies Project to deliver a recommendation to re-name the library to the University Board. Until the library is officially re-named, it will continue to be referred to as The X Library in all TCDSU communications.

This victory shows that there is no tradition too sacred to question. Our buildings deserve to be celebrated by the community who uses them. This is not the beginning, nor the end of anti-racism work done by our union — but today, we celebrate the power we have together.

This year, TCDSU challenged our university's colonial legacy, changed our century-old graduation-by-merit system, and improved the services that help us live our lives.

We deserve change, and we must demand it.

Yours in power,

Gabrielle Fullam  
*TCDSU President*