

# University to replace clapping with hand –waving

6th October, 2018

Harder

A university in the UK has voted to replace hand clapping with 'jazzhand waving'. The University of Manchester Students' Union voted in favor of replacing clapping with 'jazz hands' to respect people who can be negatively affected by loud noise. The jazz hands action is the British Sign Language's form of clapping. It is simply the practice of waving one's hands in the air. Students' Union spokeswoman Sara Khan said the vote was taken out of respect for many people who are affected by loud noise, which includes clapping and cheering. She said many people with conditions like autism, sensory issues and deafness tend to avoid public events because of loud clapping and cheering.

The vote has sparked a lot of criticism online. British broadcaster Piers Morgan tweeted that, "Britain is losing its mind". The debate even reached as far as the USA, where former Florida governor Jeb Bush tweeted: "Not cool, University of Manchester. Not Cool." Representatives of the Students' Union hit back, saying they represent the majority of students' views at the university. The Union said: "The policy was passed to encourage the use of British Sign Language clapping during our democratic events to make those events more accessible and inclusive for all." It added: "We are not banning audible clapping. We understand that some people may be more comfortable to continue using it."



Sources:  
[abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [sky.com](http://sky.com)



1. A university in the UK will ban clapping and cheering at its events. **T / F**
2. The university wants to respect people who are affected by loud noise. **T / F**
3. A spokeswoman said clapping affected people who suffer autism. **T / F**
4. A former U.S. governor said the decision wasn't cool. **T / F**
5. The spokeswoman said jazz hands would make events less inclusive. **T / F**



1. What do you think of the student union's decision?
2. Why is former governor Jeb Bush commenting on this?
3. What would singers or actors think of no clapping?
4. What other things should we do to help people with sensory issues?
5. What three adjectives best describe this story?