

The `nowidow` package

Raphal Pinson
`raphink@gmail.com`

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1 Introduction

Widows (single lines at the top of a page) happen frequently and should be avoided.

The `\widowpenalty` command allows to prevent them, but its syntax is a bit complex to use.

The `nowidow` package provides a `\nowidow` command which is simpler to use in order to prevent widows.

2 Usage

To load the package, use:

```
\usepackage{nowidow}
```

`\nowidow`

To prevent widows in a paragraph, call `\nowidow` immediatly at the of the paragraph (without an empty line), optionally followed by the minimal number of lines you want after the page break:

```
This paragraph overflows to the next page,  
but I really don't want any widows in it.  
\nowidow[3]
```

The minimal number of lines to be kept after the page break defaults to 2 if not specified.

3 Implementation

```
1 \ProvidesPackage{nowidow}  
  
\nowidow@X  
2 \def\nowidow@X#1{%
```

```

3    \ifnum#1<\nowidowmax
4        10000
5        \expandafter\nowidow@X\expandafter{%
6            \the\numexpr(#1)+1\expandafter\relax\expandafter}%
7    \fi
8 }

\nowidow
9 \newcommand{\nowidow}[1][2]{%
10     \begingroup
11     \mathchardef\nowidowmax#1\relax
12     \widowpenalties #1 \nowidow@X{1} 0\par
13     \endgroup
14 }

```