What does the NUS currently offer us? The main body of student representation is an established route for careerism and cheap discounts. This is where neutrality, passiveness and so-called pragmatism has got us.

We are doomed to a worse standard of living than that of our parents. This is the best that this rotten capitalist system can offer us. We study at university with crippling debt, further exacerbated by rent; precarious work expected on degenerated terms and conditions; and the prospect of one in three of us never owning a house. We can sit around and complain about this, or actually do something to change it.

I will fight for democratic control of universities by workers and students alongside the abolition of rent, provision of free education for all students along with full living grants. We should do this through the expropriation of banks and big monopolies, taking back the wealth created off the backs of the working class that sits idle whilst in the hands of the capitalists. I will fight against the marketization of our universities and unelected management that are blinded by the profit motive.

Our power as students will only be realised if we unite with workers and staff both in Cambridge and nationally; this is our shared struggle. I will fight against casualised contracts, low pay and precarious work within universities by supporting striking staff and working with the UCU to bring about better pensions and a living wage. There has been a great display of militant action among young workers in McDonalds, TGI Fridays, Deliveroo and Wetherspoons in the last year. A lot of these workers are also students that deserve their interests fighting for.

I will fight for the NUS to abolish rent and a guarantee a high quality of accommodation for all. The NUS should not merely endorse, but properly organise rent strikes across universities to abolish parasitic landlordism. By coupling this with full living grants, students will not be encumbered by these problems which negatively affect their mental health and living conditions.

All forms of oppression must be properly tackled by uniting students and workers against this, and not allowing capitalists divide us upon these lines. I will fight against the policy of Prevent whose nakedly discriminatory nature serves to divide students and workers for the benefit of capitalist power. We should fight this with a genuine revolutionary movement to empower and unite students and workers against all oppression and exploitation.

A student union that remains apolitical is one which is completely divorced from the struggle of students. We need a militant, socialist transformation of the NUS that can organise, represent and unite the student body. We need a union that is openly affiliated with the Labour party and trade unions to bring about about socialism. To do this we the NUS must turn outwards to the broader working class movement. It is only through this, as well as bold socialist demands, that life may meaningfully improve.

Socialism within our lifetime!