



meet the candidates

MANIFESTOS | NUS DELEGATES &
LIBERATION CONFERENCE DELEGATES

cusu elections

elections@cusu.cam.ac.uk | vote.cusu.cam.ac.uk

Welcome to the manifestos booklet for the 2019 CUSU Michaelmas Elections.

This academic year, the winners of these elections will be running some of the key campaigns within CUSU, impacting the Unions, the University, the city and on a national level.

Their manifestos are your way of deciding who you want speaking for you - so please do spend a little time reading through them before casting your vote. Remember: in every election, if you are not happy with any of the candidates, you also have the option to vote to re-open nominations ("RON"). If RON wins an election, nominations for that position will be re-opened and a by-election held in due course.

Voting is online-only via www.vote.cusu.cam.ac.uk. The ballot will open at 9 am on Thursday, 6th February, and close at 5 pm on Sunday, 9th February.

We hope you enjoy the elections!

-CUSU Elections Committee
elections@cusu.cam.ac.uk

WHAT IS RON? (RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS)

If you are not happy with any of the current candidates standing for election, you can vote to Re-Open Nominations (RON). RON appears on the ballot and votes for RON are counted in the same way as those for candidates. If RON is declared the winner after all votes have been counted, the election will be held again. The original candidates are allowed to run again in the new ballot, but it gives the opportunity for new candidates to run.

If nominations are re-opened for one of the NUS-Delegate positions, then representatives from the colleges and faculties will vote for those positions at CUSU Council. NUS delegates elected through CUSU Council will have to vote along the lines of CUSU policy when they attend NUS Conference.

WHY VOTE RON?

Voters may choose to vote RON for one of the following reasons:

- They do not think any of the available candidates should be elected.
- They would rather have more choice and be able to select from a greater number of candidates (not a guaranteed outcome).
- They have already ranked some candidates, but feel that none of the remaining candidates should be elected.

VOTING RON IN STV/AV ELECTIONS

The CUSU Cross Campus Elections are counted using the Single Transferable Vote system (STV) which becomes Alternative Vote (AV) for positions with only one place. Put simply, this means you will be able to rank candidates in order of preference, instead of only voting for one candidate. When counting votes, if there is no outright winner, the losing votes will be re-distributed according to voters' second preferences (and then third, fourth and so on) until there is an outright winner. You can rank RON first and still rank other candidates afterwards, so your vote is not wasted if Re-Open Nominations is not successful.

You do not need to vote for RON in an election, so if you think all of the candidates are better than no candidate, don't put a number next to RON on your ballot!

More information about STV can be found on the CUSU website.

www.cusu.co.uk/takeaction/elections





Nus Delegates

CANDIDATES

VOTE HOWARD FOR NUS DELEGATE #1

WHO AM I?

I'm a History MPhil student at Magdalene College running to represent you at NUS Conference. I'm principled, experienced, and dedicated to bringing the big issues that matter most to students here to a national platform. Meaningful change is possible when we work with each other to stand up for ourselves. I'll ensure that the NUS is connected with its grassroots membership and committed to collective empowerment and action.

AS YOUR DELEGATE, I'LL PRIORITISE:

A FREE & LIBERATED EDUCATION

Resisting the continued marketisation of HE and FE through nationwide campaigns to boycott the NSS and cut the rent. Opposing the racist Prevent Duty and combatting the resurgence of the racist far-right on campuses.

DIVEST, DISARM, DECOLONISE

Universities must commit to global climate justice and cut their ties with the fossil fuel industry and arms trade; and pledge to reparative justice for their historical links to the slave trade.

STAFF-STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Staff working conditions are student learning conditions. I'll work to ensure that the NUS supports the UCU and campaigns to unionise service staff and bring them in-house at unis nationwide.

STANDING UP FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Brexit and the Hostile Environment threaten overseas students' rights. It's vital that the NUS takes action to defend them.



WHY ME?

I've been on the committees of the BME Campaign and both the CUSU and GU Execs, represented undergrad students on the Faculty Board of History, organised student support for the 2018 and 2019 UCU strikes, and supported Living Wage and Decolonising the University campaigning. I'm familiar with the issues that students here care about and keen to link up our campaigns here with what's going on nationally. I also attended the NUS BME Students' Conference in 2018 as a delegate, and will use my knowledge of the policies, procedure, and politics of the NUS to effectively stand up for all students.

JESS O'BRIEN

FOR NUS DELEGATE

Who am I?

As CUSU Disabled Students' Officer I have developed a wealth of knowledge and experience that I can bring to the forefront of NUS Conference. I also have significant experience with local and University grassroots organising.

Centring Liberation

It is vital that the NUS centres liberation politics for marginalised groups in all of its organising, not just at liberation conference. I will ensure that disability politics is at the front and centre of national debate, alongside other marginalised identities.

Key Priorities

Continue to fight against marketisation and casualisation within Higher Education - recognising these forces as inimical to student welfare and liberation

Advocate for a national policy on inclusive practice within HE, campaigning for certain adjustments e.g. lecture capture to become standard practice in the sector

Ensure commitment to challenging attainment gaps which affect marginalised communities across our Universities

Emphasise that welfare is a political issue, and challenge the structural causes of the student mental health crisis, such as workload

Bridge the divide between Universities and their local communities - secure relationships with other unions to ensure we are united on joint fights



PETER FOR NUS DELEGATE

Let's Change The NUS!

Vote 4th - 7th Feb

Hi! I'm a second year Philosophy student at
Downing College and CUSU LGBT+ Comms Officer

STANDING UP FOR STUDENTS

- Look past ideological gridlock and work for pragmatic change
- Make the NUS use its power for real change - rents, strikes refund and access
- Put students' needs first

GIVING STUDENTS A VOICE

- Fight for democratic reform
- Reach out to and represent real students
- Make officers and staff more accountable

MAKING THE NUS WORK FOR YOU

- Reform NUS finances and end its constant crisis
- Improve scrutiny of officers over the way they run the union
- Create an NUS that's run for you

Check Out My Facebook Event!

https://www.facebook.com/events/158946405529770/?__mref=mb

Sally for NUS Delegate



1

IMPROVED STUDENT WELFARE

Rent prices are at a record high, mental health provisions for students are abysmal and sexual violence procedures are ineffective. I promise to campaign on the issues that affect students' everyday lives.

2

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ANTISEMITISM

Antisemitism should have no place in the student movement, yet it continues to rear its ugly head. I'll continue to pressure our national movement to combat antisemitism in a meaningful way, as well as calling out Islamophobia and hatred in all its forms.

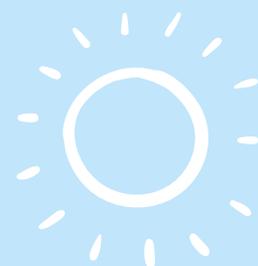
3

TACKLING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Every student should feel safe on campus. However, universities refuse to take reports of sexual harassment and assault seriously. In particular, I will lobby to support BME, LGBT+ and trans students who face even greater hurdles when accessing support.

MY EXPERIENCE

- Current NUS NEC Member
- Women's Officer, St Edmunds College
- Equality, Liberation and Access Officer, Bristol SU



SIYANG WEI *for* NUS DELEGATE

In the past 5 years I've been involved in student organising in various capacities at a local and national level; I was an undergraduate student (also at Cambridge), was a staff member at another students' union, and have now begun a graduate degree. I understand the urgent threats facing higher education, and the importance of an **empowered student body** and **collective action** to tackle them.



WHAT DO I STAND FOR?

FREE & LIBERATED EDUCATION I believe further and higher education is a **public good** that should be accessible to anyone; I want to **abolish tuition fees**, increase **maintenance support** for working class students, and **oppose the marketisation** that is ravaging pastoral support, staff working conditions, and student learning conditions across the country.

DIVEST, DISARM, DECOLONISE Divesting from fossil fuels, undoing ties with the arms trade, and decolonising the university are vital for an education system that is **just, sustainable**, and allows us to **make positive change in the world** as students.

FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL At the moment, there are **huge financial support gaps** for (among others) graduate students, students who need to access benefits, and students who go on placement (such as medical and nursing students).

RENT & COST OF LIVING Rent is an issue of class and financial access, and it is also a welfare issue that contributes hugely to the **crisis of student mental health**. I will support policies aimed at **lowering rent and other hidden costs**, and particularly welfare policies that address **financial insecurity and marketisation** as key causes.

WHY ME?

- I worked at Manchester Metropolitan University students' union for a year in their **student voice and democracy team** — my role included training MMU's NUS delegates and briefing them on big issues in higher education and how NUS works.
- I was on the **CUSU BME Campaign committee** for two years as Treasurer and then Events Officer, and represented the Campaign at CUSU Council.
- As **Open Portfolio officer** and now **Disabilities officer** on the executive committee this year, I have worked with the GU to campaign on **access and funding for graduate students** and **marketisation of the graduate degree**.

#VOTESIYANG for NUS DELEGATE!

VOTE STELLA

FOR NUS DELEGATE #1 - [VOTE.CUSU.CAM.AC.UK](https://vote.cusu.cam.ac.uk)

...for experience, compassion and commitment to tackling the structural issues that affect students - both undergraduate and postgraduate

WHO IS SHE?

As the **current Welfare and Rights Officer for CUSU and the GU** I've got a good idea of the main issues affecting students' welfare at Cambridge, as well as experience campaigning for positive change on these at a university level, running training sessions for students and staff, and platforming student organising in my full time job as a sabbatical officer.

I also **campaigning as a student** on issues from cutting the rent to strike solidarity to opposing Prevent. I've worked on linking up our campaigning with local groups, as well as Anglia Ruskin and national campaigns, because I know that we are most effective when we work together for change.

At National Conference I'll be voting for motions and candidates who reflect a commitment to NUS support and action on the following areas...

WELFARE IS POLITICAL

- **Opposing the racist Prevent duty**
- Linking up with the NUS Women's Campaign's work on **supporting survivors**
- Centring **support for student sex workers**
- Continuing support for **cut the rent** campaigns

DIVEST / DISARM / DEMOCRATISE

- Universities should not be funding, or funded by, industries that cause global destruction either through their fossil fuel extraction or their support of the global arms trade.

FREE EDUCATION

- **Against Marketisation**, continuing opposing harmful metrics like the NSS
- **Decolonisation** - linking up with our Delolonisation Network to make sure students can feed into national policy.
- Making sure **post-graduate voices** are heard at a national level.

UNION SUPPORT

- Successive UCU strikes have shown how important it is that **students' unions are closely linked with other workers' unions**
- I'll work to make sure that campaigns for the unionisation of cleaning staff are supported by the NUS, and that we are actively seeking links with other trade unions.

ZACHARY FOR NUS DELEGATE

Let's Fix The NUS!

Vote 6th - 9th Feb



Hi! I'm a second year History undergrad and the College councillor at Robinson College

STANDING UP FOR STUDENTS

- Put an end to NUS grandstanding
- Fight for students instead of ideology
- Campaign for real change on the cost of living, student rents and student voice in our universities

GIVING STUDENTS A VOICE

- Make the NUS accountable to the students it serves
- Engaging with you to push the issues you care about
- Fighting for reform and bringing transparency to the NUS

MAKING THE NUS WORK FOR YOU

- End NUS bureaucracy and make the organisation sustainable
- Hold NUS Officers to account for financial mismanagement
- Push for programs and campaigns you want to see, putting students back in the drivers seat

Check Out My Facebook Event!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/807269569774146/>



Nus Liberation Conference Delegate

CANDIDATES



Abdullah Hared

FOR BME NUS LIBERATION CONFERENCE DELEGATE

Hi, my name is Abdullah Hared and I am a second year Politics and Sociology student. I am running as the BME Cambridge delegate to the NUS Liberation Conference to represent our interests and influence NUS policy on a national level. The NUS Liberation Conference is important for several reasons, but crucially it allows students from disadvantaged backgrounds to come together, discuss their problems, and put their policy ideas forward to the NUS. As students we are spread out across all the universities in the UK, and so our voice is splintered. However, at the NUS we can speak with one voice, and create a set of guidelines and policies that universities take seriously. This gives us an opportunity to address our problems, such as the under representation of BME students within more elitist universities, their statistical under attainment there, and their increased probability of dropping out compared to white peers with equivalent a-level grades. As an elite institution, Cambridge suffers these problems more than most. According to CUSU's 2018-2019 survey, 79% of Black students said that Cambridge was not a positive place to live and study. 83% report that they have dealt with racial prejudice, with 26% dealing with racial harassment. Over 40% of Asian, Arab, and mixed race students have also had to deal with racial prejudice. This is more a systematic issue than an interpersonal one, with 49% of BME students feeling like their learning needs aren't being accommodated by teaching staff, compared to 37% of white students. This is reflected in examination results, in 2018 28.4% of white students achieved a 1st, compared with 23.9% of mixed race students, 23.8% of Asian students, and 10.5% of Black students. The difference between BME and white experiences, teaching, and exam results need to be addressed, and that is what I plan on doing if elected as one of the Cambridge delegates to the NUS Liberation Conference. With problems of this scale, it can be difficult to imagine any solutions. However, that is what this conference is all about, and there are lots of initiatives that Cambridge and other universities can back to give BME students the support they need. A few preliminary thoughts would be; Allowing BME first years to arrive a few days early, so they can have some BME specific talks, familiarizing them to the Cambridge atmosphere before Fresher's week starts in earnest Making sure that each college at least one friendly port of call, if students have a problem they aren't comfortable taking to their DOS or tutor Creating an anonymous platform for students to report racial harassment, while simplifying and publicising their current investigation procedures Initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life that BME students lead here have a cumulative influence, as it helps them feel that this is their university, that its goal is to promote them, and that its a safe environment to grow and take risks in.

That is what university should be about.



Alessandro Ceccarelli

FOR LGBTQ+ LIBERATION CONFERENCE DELEGATE

I volunteered myself as a candidate for two reasons. Firstly, in the past years, I have been involved in activities concerning diversity and equality for LGBTQ+ across Cambridge and London, supporting and organising events with and for students and local charities. Secondly, my experience with activism for LGBTQ+ rights also reaches South Asia and continental Europe. This helped me to strengthen a network of contacts that can provide support and a safe environment for discussions. Moreover, I am familiar with difficult contexts where LGBTQ+ rights are still developing (see South and Eastern Asia).



VOTE ALI FOR NUS LIBERATION CONFERENCE

I'm Ali, I'm the CUSU Education Officer, and I'm running to be one of your NUS Liberation Conference Delegates, representing either trans or LGBT+ students. Having been Trans Rep and then President of CUSU LGBT+, as well as supporting the work of the LGBT+ Campaign through my sabbatical role, I'm well placed to represent Cambridge's LGBT+ students at a national level. Furthermore, having attended NUS Main Conference in 2019, I have a clear understanding of how the democracy of the NUS works, I have existing relationships with the NUS Trans and LGBT+ Officers, and took part in the Save NUS Trans campaign at Conference in 2019.

I would advocate that the NUS (continue to) work on:

Protecting Trans Students from Harassment

Trans people standing up for their rights often experience harassment, especially online, and the NUS should be producing guidance and supporting SUs in supporting trans students in their activism and standing up for their right to exist proudly

Publicly condemning transphobic ideologies such as Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminism

Advocating Gender Neutral Policies

The lack of data collected on the experiences of non-binary students makes it more difficult to campaign on these issues without the evidence to back up campaigns and the NUS could campaign and support SUs in advocating for data collection to acknowledge that not everyone identifies as a man or a woman

More actively supporting SUs on advocating gender neutral toilet policies

Fighting for Estranged Students

LGBT+ students are disproportionately likely to be estranged from their families; estranged students face numerous barriers to their education, including difficulties with finances and housing, especially during the holidays

Tackling LGBT+ Mental Health

LGBT+ students are disproportionately at risk of suffering from mental health issues, as are many other marginalised groups, and this should be kept at the heart of the work the NUS does on student mental health

Updating Resources

Many of the LGBT+ and Trans pages on the NUS website are out of date and, therefore, not fit for purpose

Keeping Liberation at the heart of the NUS

Fighting against the work being done to remove liberation from the core work of the NUS, as was seen at Main Conference 2020



www.vote.cusu.cam.ac.uk





**don't forget
to vote!**

VOTE.CUSU.CAM.AC.UK

voting open: 9 am on Thurs 6th Feb | closes: 5 pm on Sun 9th Feb