

VOTE STELLA FOR CUSU + GU WELFARE AND RIGHTS OFFICER

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Meaningful Structural Change

We often focus on treating the symptoms of the mental health crisis, but for real improvements we need to **change the conversation**, combining **proactive campaigning** with **countering its structural causes**.

The removal of maintenance loans and steep tuition fees has fostered an increasingly competitive environment. Pressure to make costly degrees “worthwhile” is coupled with the stress of paying rising rents, while graduates face underpaid, casualised work. Education is undermined in favour of metrics, and alternate learning methods sidelined in aid of “productivity”.

I will advocate for:

- Access to housing – I’ll support and centralise college rent efforts with CUSU and the GU, and work to combat housing inequality and homelessness in Cambridge
- Anti-casualisation – I’ll work with the rest of the GU and UCU to ensure that the university fairly pays its workers, including graduate students, and with the Living Wage Campaign to advocate for the rights of casualised workers
- Countering competitiveness – I’ll push to get a university swimming pool as a place for non-competitive sport and time out, and lobby for an afternoon of no scheduled academic work a week
- Alternate methods of learning – I’ll organise skillshares, teach outs, and collaborative working environments, and make lecture recording and book and note sharing more accessible

Popping the “Bubble”

The “bubble” myth falsely divides students from people living in the town; this isolationism only places more pressure on students to make academic achievements their sole concern.

- Facilitating community engagement – I’ll collaborate with town groups and ARU e.g. by working with Jimmy’s homeless shelter, the Period Poverty Campaign, and Women’s Strike
- Open access – I’ll lobby for access to libraries regardless of college, and access to university and college spaces for local residents

No Welfare Without Rights: Proactive Campaigning

- Training staff – I’ll ensure all tutors are trained in line with anti-discrimination policies and Sexual Assault and Harassment training, and create an online course/resource for all staff
- Active anti-racism – I’ll continue the End Everyday Racism project, work to ensure that a meaningful decolonisation does not end with curricula, and oppose the Hostile Environment and Prevent
- Supporting Survivors – I’ll work with the Women’s Officer to improve our in house support services for survivors of sexual violence, provide training with Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre, and restart CUSU’s survivor’s forum
- Combating Stigma – I’ll support student sex workers and campaigns for decriminalisation, run welfare forums, events and awareness campaigns, and provide free first aid and mental health training for all