Thais Warren for NUS Delegate

Our future is hugely at stake. Graduates are being paid lower wages on worse contracts. Big business is privatising our universities. Rent is ever-increasing. Do students have a national voice through which we can fight this? The NUS should not just be a vehicle for careerism and a discount generator. The NUS should be a true radical union representing, mobilising and fighting for students and workers across the nation on a radical socialist basis.

We need to provide free and correctly funded public education, which would be paid for through expropriation of the bosses, allowing us to eliminate the crippling student debt we face. We need democratic control of education run by workers and students, eliminating investment for private profit in order to provide education run for public need.

On average Cambridge charges over £95 per week for rent, one of the highest in the country- and this is only increasing. Living grants should be provided for all students, and student accommodation should be public. We must abolish the exploitation of students through extortionate rent prices and we must call and organise for successful rent strikes across campus. Without this, many students cannot cover their basic costs, whilst living in poor environments, which in turn add even more pressure the mental health crisis. We must have wellbeing over profit!

The National Union of Students should be a political body for students. We cannot have it purely for discounts or allow it to be used as vehicle for careerism. We must have a fighting union. Capitalism cannot provide for our basic needs as students. Students must struggle alongside the working class, turning outwards and directly affiliating with the Labour movement in order to build a socialist society based on need not profit.

We must end oppression and exploitation in all its forms. We must fight to oppose the Prevent legislation due to its attack on students’ civil liberties and its inherent targeting of Muslim students. We call for the unity of students and workers to collectively cast out all the forms of oppression and exploitation through socialism. No one should be prevented from accessing education due to poverty. We are opposed to the racism and xenophobia faced by immigrants and that faced by international students and must call for the abolition of tuition fees for international students.

The NUS should work with and support UCU, Unite and Unison in action against Universities. We should mobilise students to join picket lines. Low pay and casualisation for all campus staff must be ended. To fight the marketisation of education we need solidarity between students and workers. We must call the NUS to support the militant action of young workers in companies such as: McDonalds, TGI Fridays, Deliveroo and Wetherspoons. We must support them with a genuine union of students.

Students and Workers Unite and Fight!