

MUSLIMS MATTER

There are around 50,000 Muslim's living in Wales today who are facing increasing levels of hatred because of their religion. The continuous increase in Islamophobic attacks towards women is not ok. They should not be targeted due to their choice of wearing the Muslim dress, hijab and niqab. They should not feel as though their rights are being drained, weakened or exhausted. They should not feel as though they cannot speak out about this. Muslim women should have the right to feel comfortable in what they wear without being fearful of walking the streets. I want to work with Muslim women to see how NUS Wales can support them to combat Islamophobia.

I will:

- Raise awareness of the extremity of Islamophobia. This could be done by working with the organisation MEND in order to hold workshops and talks.
- Work with Muslim women students to promote confidence in speaking out about their feelings and experiences
- Work with various organisations who focus on Muslim women and Islamophobia such as Muslim Women Network in UK.



FIGHT THE CUTS

Worldwide 1 in every 3 women will experience sexual violence. 1 in 7 female students will suffer sexual harassment on campus, 20% of female students have been pressured into sexual activity, 31% groped inappropriately, and 34% have been a victim of sexual abuse or assault. These appalling figures are the reality that we as women have to face every day. As someone who has experienced inappropriate behaviour I understand that sexual violence and consent is an on-going issue that we need to tackle, but rather than seeing positive actions from the government we are seeing vital support services being cut. Women, who have experienced sexual or domestic violence, now struggle to find refuges to stay. I believe that all sexual and domestic violence victims should feel safe and be able to access refuge. We need to fight these cuts to ensure the support is available. We need to raise awareness about these issues and start a national conversation about how we can come together as a society to tackle these problems and prevent them from occurring.

I will:

- Lobby the government and hold them to account on these issues and what the effect is on us as students
- Continue the work of Reclaim the Night and work with organisations such as 'The Survivors Trust' to extend the scope of awareness and encourage those to speak out.
- Lobby the government for inclusive and comprehensive sex and relationship education that discusses consent at every level of education

COMBATING GENDER SEGREGATED APPRENTICESHIPS

All apprenticeships should be open to all students, regardless of their gender. However, because of the way children are raised to adhere to gender roles, societal expectations, and due to the educational system and the career advice provided to young adults, women are more likely to enter career paths that are stereotyped as being traditionally "female". For example, recent research that shows that around 70% of girls feel they are suited to careers of beauty, child care and nursing. I believe that women shouldn't be restricted by gender but should be encouraged to consider all options. Females in apprenticeships are also more likely to get paid less with males getting paid around 21% more. This gender pay gap is not ok and is yet another sign that career paths that are seen as being traditionally 'female' are undervalued and under-paid.

I will:

- Work with learner representatives in order to tackle the advice given in apprenticeships and work with students to hold workshops in order to help break down these gender normalities.
- Work with apprenticeship organisations and hold them to account on the equal opportunities available within their organisations.
- Work with Young Women's Trust on their launch of #WomensApprentices

VOTE

Charlotte **#1**