



VOTE

Ellen

#1 FOR WOMEN'S OFFICER

Hi

I'm Ellen and I'm running to be your next NUS Wales Women's Officer. Every day, I see women facing street harassment, sexism and violence - and still gettold that we don't need feminism in 2016. Elect me,

and I will fight for a Wales that is educated, liberated and inspired by our women's movement.

I have been involved in the student movement for the past two years. As President of USW, I've ensured that students feel like a part of our union - by holding the first quorate AGM in years, and doubling voter turnout in our elections - and if elected, I'll do the same for women students all over Wales, putting you back at the heart of the campaign. Elect me, and I'll bring passion and experience to the national stage, to fight for women students in universities, colleges, and apprenticeships - and to support you to lead your own fights.

## MY RECORD

- >> Women of Wales Manifesto
- >> Safe Taxi Scheme
- >> Student Sex Worker Rights
- >> Safe streets in Cardiff
- >> Chwarae Teg Hustings

## SUPPORTING STUDENT PARENTS

The financial burdens facing student parents are huge, and the vast majority of those students are women and mature students. Childcare costs are a huge pressure for student parents, compounded by little understanding from institutions of the needs of student parents. Our institutions are rarely child-friendly environments; where most campuses fail to provide areas where students and their children are welcome.

### As your Women's Officer I will:

- >> Launch a campaign to ensure that all HE and FE institutions provide affordable and accessible childcare for student parents
- >> Fight to ensure all education providers provide child-friendly areas and baby changing facilities for student parents.

“Ellen has been an incredible officer at USW over the past two years. I've seen her put feminism and liberation at the heart of all her work, and I have no doubt that her dedication, enthusiasm, and experience are exactly what the women's campaign in Wales needs to flourish and grow.”

ROSIE INMAN

NUS WALES WOMEN'S OFFICER

# GENDER PAY GAP

Despite decades of lobbying for change, women in Wales still earn substantially less than men. Figures from Wave Wales show that in November 2014 there was an 8.4% per hour difference between men and women working full time. The gender pay gap is fuelled by the unequal impact of women's family responsibilities, women being crowded into female dominated roles, and pay discrimination. Labour seen as "women's work" has always been undervalued and we've seen that trend continue this year - from nursing bursaries being slashed; to student parents (the majority of whom are women) getting a raw deal on childcare funding; to women apprentices, where the pay gap stands at a shocking 21%.

## As your Women's Officer I will:

- >> Launch a campaign to encourage and empower women students to join Trustee Boards of charities or organisations they care about, to give them the confidence and experience to enter high-level jobs straight from university or college
- >> Support and work with organisations such as Young Women's Trust to ensure that the work of women in apprenticeships is as valued as men's



# APPRENTICES

51% of all apprentices are women, but the majority are in industries which are undervalued and underpaid - health and social care, childminders, hairdressing. Just 4% of engineering apprentices are women, and the few that do enter these industries often talk about the sexist 'banter' and stereotypes they have to fight in their roles. The landscape for women apprentices needs to drastically improve. The voice of apprentices needs to lead this work, and NUS Wales must continue to collaborate with the National Society of Apprentices Wales (NSoAW) on everything we do.

## As your Women's Officer I will:

- >> Work closely with NSoAW to encourage and support female apprentices in Wales into any industry.
- >> Fight to stamp out the current gender-defined industries within the current system.
- >> Campaign to ensure Government and businesses revalue caring work and other traditionally undervalued female centric industries.

# INCLUSIVE SEX EDUCATION

Students in Wales are being failed by an education system that refuses to give them a proper understanding of sex and relationships. Schools aren't providing important discussion around different gender identities, sexualities, body positivity, masturbation, periods, or even consent. For too long, the government has sat on its hands on the issue - even refusing to include healthy relationship education in the Violence Against Women Act. This lack of conversation with our youth contributes to many of the injustices that women have to fight every day, from casual sexism to sexual violence.

Sexual harassment and assault is on the rise with 68% of women students having been a victim of harassment during their time at university. Consent must be included into the national curriculum. Only a tiny fraction of sexual assaults are reported to the police and many women are forced to rely on charities and local crisis centres for support, which are constantly under risk from austerity cuts. We must change the way that sex is viewed by too many people in our society.

## As your Women's Officer I will:

- >> Fight to ensure that all education providers in Wales provide a sex education that is inclusive and comprehensive of all genders and sexualities as part of the curriculum, and that it is not a gender-segregated process.
- >> Ensure the Welsh Government incorporates consent and emotional sex education into the curriculum, and work alongside your unions to provide consent sessions.
- >> Lobby the Welsh Government to provide the whole of Wales with the resources they need to be able to support victims of rape and sexual assault, such as more accessible rape crisis centres especially in rural areas.



“ I have had the honour of working with Ellen over the last year. She has constantly fought for women, and equality in the student movement and in the wider community, and her work to continuously improve safety in Cardiff is second to none. ”

**LYDIA WATSON**

**SWANSEA PRESIDENT, TRINITY ST DAVID SU**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE THIS MANIFESTO IN ANOTHER FORMAT OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME



/ELLEN4WO



@ELLEN29

#ELECTELLEN