

Presidents Zone motion and report

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Committee:

Action:

Section 1 | Priorities for 2015-16

In this section of the report you will need to write in the projects you are working on and the progress made since they started. You will have already written this in your first NEC report so just use that and add in the progress box where it has now progressed since you started office.

Projects	Progress
Write here a title or name which most closely describes your project	How has this area of work progressed since it's commencement
<p>Liber8 Education: For a free, accessible, liberated education:</p> <p>Aims: Liber8 Education identifies a clear vision for what an education sector which works for all, would look and feel like, focusing on eight core campaign areas and asks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fight Marketisation, Fees & Cuts2. Affordable Housing for All3. Liberate the Curriculum4. Invest in FE5. Scrap Prevent –Students Not Suspects6. It Stops Here – Tackling Sexual Violence7. More for Mental Health8. Defend migrant rights & international students	<p>Objectives: Liber8 is based on the recognition that the many issues facing students do not manifest in isolation and that we have to take an intersectional approach to our work if we are to assert a coherent alternative to the government agenda. Liber8 is organizing tool that can be utilized to support and amplify the efforts of students and student unions across the eight areas of work. It also puts forward a set of clear alternatives (as outlined in the Liber8 Manifesto) to inform this work at a national and can be refined and adapted at a local level.</p> <p>Progress: Following a period of consultation and planning, Liber8 campaign was launched in January. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NUS connect hub with news and resources related to each campaign area which is being updated on a weekly basis.• A national liber8 manifesto outlining for each area; the problem, our alternatives and campaigning work & resources relating to them.• An interactive national map which enables Student Unions to upload info about local campaigns and events related to the 8 campaigns areas.• An offer of support, resources and NUS visits to help amplify the efforts of SU's campaigning over these issues.• A series of Liber8 events taking place around the country co-hosted with SUs and related to specific campaign areas.• These are being developed in conjunction with relevant zones and officers. See key areas of work below
<p>1.Fight fees and cuts</p> <p>Aim: Government reforms are turning education into a business and students into consumers. Education must be a public good, ensuring it is open to all, regardless of their</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undermine and make case against TEF-via Boycott• Build and promote case for free, accessible education against HE Bill/Government reforms• Support institutional wide initiatives that pose alternatives. <p>Progress:</p>

<p>ability to afford it.</p>	<p>National 'United for Education' Demonstration #Nov 19 10,000+ strong national demonstration. Workshops on tackling TEF and wider changes to HE taken place at all regional networks to discuss strategy pre and post the national demo.</p> <p>Higher education bill campaign: Actively lobbying at every stage of the Bill – including making sure students were represented giving oral evidence. Over 600 students lobbied their MPs at the 2nd reading. At the committee stage in the commons NUS was the 2nd most referenced organisation (37 mentions) and the Minister publicly committed to consulting directly with NUS on developing student protection plans. At the 3rd reading the Govt conceded to our demands and created a specific place on the Board of the OfS for a student representative, strengthened student protection plans by making them public documents, increased the amount of access data universities would have to publish and made postgraduate research student training & support responsibilities clearer. We have actively lobbied throughout the Lords stages so far, working directly with 10 Lords and supporting SUs to get in touch with them too.</p> <p>There are still major issues we have with the reforms, particularly the link between TEF and tuition fees and also the intention to allow for profit providers easier access to the sector. This is why the campaign has moved to the next phase – the NSS Boycott.</p> <p>NSS Boycott: The NSS Boycott is currently underway at 25 SUs (at the time of writing). It receives ongoing media coverage as part of the growing narrative around dissatisfaction with the reforms across higher education. We have published a campaign risk assessment and EIA and templates for SUs to conduct their own too, as well as an offer for 121 support in filling them in.</p> <p>Sector/political engagement: Spoken at many public events -Utilized a range of national platforms to raise key concerns over HE Bill, marketization, TEF & impact on international students and sector post Brexit including Fringe meeting at Labour Party Conference, SNP conference, UUK National Conference and HEFCE board meetings.</p>
<p>2. Affordable Housing for All Aim: Students – like everyone else - deserve decent and affordable housing.</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with unions to equip students with knowledge of private rented sector, their rights and responsibilities so that students can navigate the housing sector with greater access to safe, affordable, appropriate housing. • Provide advice and resources to support students and student unions taking action against rising accommodation costs, poor conditions and privatization. <p>Progress: New guidance in form of website, booklets and online training launched: www.readytorent.nus.org.uk</p> <p>Attended and spoke at the National "Rent Strike Weekender", hosted housing workshops at Regional Networks and planning meetings of student housing campaigners to discuss resources and support.</p> <p>Networking events to highlight the housing problem and support action over housing due to take place in Scotland and London (Feb/March)</p> <p>Supported students taking action, utilizing my platform to highlight issues in the media</p> <p>Discussing future collaboration and training on housing campaigns and rights with trade unions</p>
<p>3. Liberate the Curriculum Aim: We all deserve equal opportunities, equal access, and equal representation in education, regardless of our race, class, gender, sexuality and disability.</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the structural inequalities that exist in our institutions • Build confidence and provide practical resources to enable those experiences to be articulated and achieve changes in institutional practices alongside long term structural transformation

	<p>Progress:</p> <p>-Various platforms utilised to draw attention to the attainment gap and promote initiatives from Liberate the Curriculum to the ambassadors scheme designed to address it: including Black History month events across the country, the Equality Challenge Unit's National Conference, UCU and UNISON Black Members Conference.</p> <p>-Worked with NUS BSC to draft Ambassador Scheme Tool Kit which contains best practice and advice on how to establish campaigns for students, student unions, societies, clubs academics and staff members in an institution. Due to be launched Spring 2017</p> <p>-Workshops hosted at Autumn Regional Networks providing students and officers the opportunity to receive training from NUS liberation officers on how to actively liberate the course content across subject areas</p> <p>-Decolonising the curriculum resource pack – drafting in progress</p> <p>In planning stages for development of Liberate my FE resources for FE students and officers for online hub that will provide workshops and trainings online to assist SUs to implement Liberate my Degree and FE</p>
<p>4. Fight College Mergers, Closures and Cuts Aims: Colleges must remain open, funded, and focused on the needs and welfare of the students, staff and communities they serve.</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support resistance to continued cuts and closures of colleges • Fight to ensure that students are heard throughout the Area Review program process • Continue to build awareness of what is happening to the FE sector across the membership • Encourage closer working relationships between SUs across institutions and work to empower and equip FE students to utilize union resources to organise around the issues that matter to them. <p>Progress:</p> <p>NUS lobbied DfE to secure a process by which the voice of learners was heard through as many of the area reviews throughout England over the last 18 months.</p> <p>Learners from over 120 colleges have engaged in student roundtables and we now have clear local and national voice of learners around what they expect from their education, how they access it and how their voices must be heard.</p> <p>NUS has consistently pushed the FE commissioner for clarity on the motives behind area reviews. We continue to fight against unnecessary closing of campuses that restrict access and have pushed for evaluations of area reviews to include impact assessments across the diversity of students and their ability to access quality further education.</p> <p>We have made clear nationally that the reforms through the Post-16 Skills plan must coincide with investment in FE for them to work and this voice has been shared by providers, AoC and other sector bodies.</p> <p>Held sessions on FE and area reviews in Lead and Change summer training and regional network with emphasis on utilizing regional networks to support students in FE</p>
<p>5. Scrap Prevent –Students Not Suspects Aims: The exchange of ideas and free pursuit of knowledge must not be criminalised. Students and lecturers should be free to teach, learn, and debate without fear of repression.</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>To challenge the Prevent Duty and work towards its repeal at a national level while supporting students and their Unions dealing with it locally, by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making challenges to Government(s) and political leaders about the dangers of the Duty and the union's opposition to it. • Providing resources and information to student unions seeking to challenge Prevent • Building stronger links with education sector trade unions and

	<p>encourage those relationships on a local level.</p> <p>Progress:</p> <p>Launched Students Not Suspects helpline which offers free confidential advice to students and SUs on Prevent</p> <p>Launched Civil Liberties Monitoring Project - a new piece of research to investigate the impact of Prevent on freedom of expression and the experiences of students/SUs in Higher Education. Due to report in May.</p> <p>Established preventing prevent_on-line Hub on NUS Connect with all relevant information and guidance</p> <p>Wider campaigning - participated in a number of events including successful fringe at Labour Party Conference plus on-going including discussions with teaching unions about working together</p> <p>Supporting SUs and activists - workshop materials being prepared for SU's and students who want to organise campaigns on campus and training for trainers based in regions that can help deliver training on this issue in motion.</p>
<p>6. It Stops Here: Tackling Sexual Violence and Harassment</p> <p>Aims Women have a right to study and teach, free from harassment, objectification, sexual violence and any oppression.</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work alongside the NUS Women's Campaign to support SUs to campaign against sexual harassment on campus – this will include looking at preventative measures, educational measures and also survivor care. • Conduct research project into student-staff misconduct in order to understand the scale of the problem - this entails holding public consultations, working with the 1752 Group and working unions (pilots at unions); • Promote preventative measures – the NUS Women's Campaign is in the process of developing bystander intervention workshops so that unions can choose between consent workshops (developed last year) and bystander workshops (being developed this year) • Work with UUK to ensure that policy is being implemented across HE institutions; <p>-Workshops on tackling sexual violence on campus run at regional networks with individual advice sessions offered to SU officers in order campaigns can be tailored to local campus contexts.</p> <p>Produced a briefing on sexual assault within universities as part of campaigning for the recommendations of Universities UK to be made legal requirements</p> <p>Worked with ICC Change to ensure that the Istanbul Convention, which provides legal requirements for the government to combat violence against women and girls, passed through the House of Commons</p> <p>Women's Officer Handbook and Feminist Society Handbook that contains a section on how to lead a harassment campaign for SUs and activists - in finishing stages to be published soon. NUS Women's Campaign will also be holding bootcamps for feminist societies and women's officers so they can develop their campaigning skills</p> <p>Preparing to kick start ground breaking research on tackling student-staff misconduct in February (working on an exclusive the Guardian). This will be followed with our first public consultation at Manchester on March 1st.</p> <p>Speaking at, supporting and attending a range of national events and actions including: Women in Leadership conference (including I Will Lead the Way for Muslim Women and I Will Lead the Way for Women of Faith), Reclaim the Night, It Stops Here national conference</p>
<p>7. More for Mental Health</p> <p>Aims: Poor student mental</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of mental health issues in the sector

<p>health is a deeply worrying indication of the current state of our education system and society. We need more and better services, available to all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a new policy and campaign model for understanding mental health which is intersectional and encourage SUs to adopt the model into their plans in conjunction with Liberation Campaigns. <p>Progress</p> <p>-Equipping ourselves: Series of workshops on mental health held at regional workshops and for World Mental Health day and series of self care workshops for women of colour and Black women held. -</p> <p>-Influencing: NUS's agenda on mental health being pushed at various UUK working groups and committees.</p> <p>-New app: Prep undergone for new tool for SUs to assess counselling services on their campuses in terms of funding, accreditation and practices. To be launched in March.</p> <p>-Culturally competent services: Planning stages of research into availability of culturally-competent services and the accessibility of MH services to students who are Part-time, mature, disabled, International students and parents and careers.</p> <p>-Conferences: Conferences on Black Mental Health and National conference on mental health due to be held in March</p>
<p>8. Defend international students and migrant rights Aim: All students, regardless of nationality, should be free to study without fear of deportation, prejudice, hate or injustice.</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work alongside the International Students' Campaign to create effective anti-deportation networks. • Provide information and expertise SU's and activists to organise effective support and campaigns • Challenge attacks on International students and in defence of migrant rights more broadly across society. <p>Progress:</p> <p>-Organising: Hosted Workshops on building anti-deportation networks at Autumn term Regional networks</p> <p>-Shaping the agenda: Utilized national platforms and forums to push for guarantees in terms of status and security of international students post-Brexit at Labour fringe, UUK conference, HEFCE.</p> <p>-Supporting campaigns: Supported parliamentary lobbying, legal proceedings and campaigning activities in support of TOEIC Victims and will continue to do so.</p> <p>-Direct action: Organising and building to UK wide One Day Without Us protest on February 20</p> <p>-Mobilising: Hosting National summit: Trump, Brexit and Beyond –Building Bridges not Walls</p> <p>-Supporting victims: Preparing work to fight for the rights of unaccompanied migrant children to live and learn in the UK –accelerated in wake of governments disgraceful failure to implement Dubbs amendment.</p> <p>-Providing resources: Booklet guide for students and officers who want to do anti deportation in progress</p> <p>-Rent guarantors: We will be launching resources and case studies about how unions can campaign for their institutions to become rent guarantors for international students in May.</p>
<p>Apprentices</p>	<p>Addressed members of the national society of apprentices at U.K.-wide meeting, discussing NUS as a space of support, and hearing from them what that would look like.</p> <p>Meeting with UNITE the Union addressing the question of rights and pay for apprentices as well as developing a handbook on unions and how they can join</p>

	Speaking at The Future of Apprenticeships: Closing and Skills Gap and Boosting Productivity conference
Regional Networks Aim: To develop regional events/structures where officers and students can come together to share experiences and best practice, discuss local and national issues and coordinate action – across their own region and in conjunction with NUS.	Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate stronger communication and collaboration between officers and students, universities and colleges across each city and region Facilitate stronger communication and collaboration between NUS, SU's and the student membership Facilitate sharing and spread of best practice Support and train activists in the student movement and strengthen grass roots organisation Progress: Held a series of one day regional networks in London, North West, North East, East Midlands, West Midlands, South East, South West regions in Autumn term. Following feedback, refined approach to co-organise a series of regional or networking events in conjunction with SU's and liber8 to enable knowledge building, sharing of best practice and training on key areas of work. These include housing summits (London and Scotland), Access all areas – widening participation conference hosted in Manchester, It Stops here one day event on tackling sexual harassment also in Manchester, Defend International students and migrant rights campaign day hosted at Canterbury Christ Church SU and more tba.
NUS Governance Review	Overseeing the work as chair of both the NUS UK board and NEC. Alongside other members of students' union and NUS staff and officers, sense checking and developing the proposals as part of the task and finish group (set up by the NUS UK board).

Section 2 | Zone Policy

In this section of the report you will need to write in the policy that is within your Zone and any progress made since July 1st 2016.

Policy	Progress
Write here the title and unique policy ID	What work has been done in this area
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of students who are represented by autonomous students union Defend SUs against moves to restrict their autonomy or right to organise, together with trade unions. Ring-fence funding for FE SUs to campaign on area reviews in England and devolved elections in the nations. Prioritise work on FE union-development. Lobby sector bodies to defend SUs and work with their institutions to provide an increase in block grants. Support student unions <p>Ensure that student unions are consulted through the creation of NUS projects and campaigns</p>	Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of regional networks which have been held in London, North West, North East, East Midlands, West Midlands, South East, South West regions in Autumn term. Used to provide training and support for student unions and student activists, pushing for practical co-working within regions and providing a crucial mechanism for union involvement in NUS campaign development. Providing tailored support for unions in regions across the UK, including housing summit in Stirling, widening participation conference in Manchester, events on sexual harassment and range of other actions and events detailed above. Hosting roundtables on FE: learners from over 120 colleges have engaged in student roundtables and we now have clear local and national voice of learners around what they expect from their education, how they access it and how their voices must be heard. Ensuring that union development work and officer support is improved for FE unions, including within Lead and Change training and regional networks. Working closely with UCU and other sector unions on

	<p>campaigns like 'One Day Without Us' and the NSS boycott.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting and developing joint work in defence of union rights and to progress union organization in the student movement and collaboration on a range of key issues facing students, young people and workers. • Supporting unions looking to promote diversity within their sabb and staff team.

