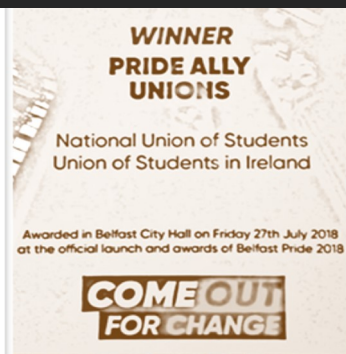


#1 Vote Conor Loughran for NUS-USI President

For a liberated, relevant, protected union



About Me

Hi I'm Conor, and I've been your LGBT+ Officer for two years. My journey started in FE, in Belfast Met SU, and from there I was first introduced to NUS-USI at Festival. I would go on to be elected as your LGBT+ Officer at NUS-USI Conference in 2017, and take my place as part of the regional executive committee.

I went from being an anxious and shy gay teenager to a leading activist fighting for LGBT+ rights in Northern Ireland. I have met thousands of students and represented you on both a national and international stage, to everyone from government ministers to party leaders, to college staff and fellow student officers across the UK and Ireland.

After 3 years of being a volunteer, and going from FE to HE as part of Queen's Student Council, I am now standing to be the next President of NUS-USI. This movement has given me purpose, it has motivated and inspired me, and now I want to give back and deliver as I always have on things that really matter to students in Northern Ireland.

Working for You

- Joined Love Equality and have been campaigning for equal marriage rights for 2 years as part of a national coalition, meeting party leaders, senior government ministers and representatives of both the Irish and UK government.
- Created SUsLoveEquality, a movement growing to this day of English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish SUs who have come together to show support and fundraise for Love Equality.
- I helped create and develop our brand new Trans campaign, the first of its kind on the island of Ireland.
- I created the first ever Trans student network in NI.
- I rebuilt the LGBT+ campaign after it had all but died.
- I have lead and co-organised the largest gathering of our membership, the student bloc at Belfast Pride.
- I've visited over 25 campuses in 11 unions, representing NUS-USI to thousands of students across NI.
- I have travelled everywhere from Cork, Galway, Dublin, Glasgow, Sheffield, Stratford-Upon-Avon, London, Brighton, Birmingham and Manchester representing you on a national and international stage.

BMCSU Class Rep 16-17

BMCSU VP Millfield 16-17

BMCSU Student Secretary 16-17

NUS-USI Conference Delegate 17

NUS-USI LGBT+ Officer 17-19

NUS-USI Trustee Board 17-18

NUS Conference Delegate 17/19

QUBSU Student Council 17-19

QUBSU Activities Committee 17-18

Love Equality Coalition 17-19

NUS LGBT+ Committee 17-19

Pink Training Facilitator 17-19

QUBSU Standing Committee 18-19

USI Congress Delegate 19

Belfast Pride Award Winner 2018

GNI Awards Finalist 2018



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THIS IS A CRITICAL TIME FOR NUS-USH

ENGAGEMENT

NUS-USH needs to be on the ground, in YOUR campuses helping you deliver YOUR campaigns. We need to be RELEVANT to our member unions, understand the issues UNIQUE to them and deliver campaigns our members want.

I want to create a new Freshers strategy to MAXIMISE engagement and bring ALL students into the fold. There is no better opportunity to meet thousands of students and ensure they have an input in our campaigns. Low turnout at our events needs to be challenged and membership deserve a place in everything we do.

I pledge to improve engagement across the board and bring NUS-USH to our members no matter where they study.

LIBERATION

Liberation is under threat; more than ever we need a President with EXPERIENCE in liberation campaigning to lead and actually protect our national union. I have TWO YEARS of experience of not only leading my own campaign but SUPPORTING THE WORK OF OTHER LIBERATION CAMPAIGNS throughout my tenure. Liberation matters in NUS-USH. It forms the basis of the work we are most proud of.

I will continue to support our WOMENS & LGBT+ CAMPAIGNS which are well established and give all of my support to the BAEM, DISABLED & TRANS CAMPAIGNS which are at a critical stage in their development. STRONG LIBERATION = A STRONG UNION.

I pledge to build that strength.

CONSENT

This year NUS-USH conducted GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH on the issue of sexual non-consent on a national level.

With thousands of responses it is clear that this is a significant issue for our membership.

We cannot leave the hard work that has gone into this to be left unanswered. We must deliver a STRONG CAMPAIGN on the issue of sexual non-consent and support the work of our member unions who over the past year have campaigned, protested and lobbied for this vital issue to be taken seriously by their institutions and local authorities.

I pledge to lead and develop a pro-active and sustained campaign on this issue.

NUS REFORMS

NUS UK has long ignored the students of Northern Ireland. Whether they mean to or not in recent years, Northern Irish students have been neglected, forgotten and treated with contempt.

Our national union must stand up for the rights of all students, not just those in England, and not just those in London. From forgetting that NUS-USH exists to using us as token points in manifestos we must make our voices heard.

More than ever we need to protect NUS-USH and ensure we have a strong voice on a UK level.

I pledge to protect NUS-USH from further cuts and act as the voice of NI students on NUS Board, protecting liberation and putting our union first.

USH PARTNERSHIP

Whilst USH has been better at acknowledging the issues that students face in Northern Ireland, there is still an unfortunate lack of cross-island co-operation. During the repeal referendum, we saw the strength of cross-island solidarity, as hundreds of people of the North campaigned side-by-side with people in the South fighting for a common cause. The strength of our cross-island partnership is evident in so many ways, yet we do not utilise this enough.

Whilst Northern Ireland does not have equal marriage Ireland does not.

Whilst Northern Ireland does not have abortion access Ireland does not.

Just as with the rest of the UK we must ensure that the voices of NI students are heard loud and clear.

I pledge to ensure this voice is heard.



BREXIT

Brexit is looming. By the time this election we will have potentially left the European Union without a deal. This leaves thousands of students in Northern Ireland unsure of where their future lies. We must support our member unions in their efforts to ensure continued access to Erasmus+ and EU research programmes which are especially vital to our many INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS.

Brexit is not just a political issue. It is an educational, a financial and a social one. We must plan for a post-Brexit Northern Ireland. We have to consider our options and fight to ensure students are not worse-off because of Brexit.

I pledge to develop post-Brexit strategy using the research NUS-USH has carried out in previous years to ensure continued access to education for our cross-border and international students.

FURTHER EDUCATION

The majority of NUS-USH membership are Further Education students, yet their voice is the LEAST HEARD.

Coming from an FE student council myself, I understand the UNIQUE ISSUES which our FE unions face. Which is why I travelled to many college campuses across NI.

From Derry to Belfast, from Bangor to Omagh, from Armagh to Coleraine, I have worked with EVERY ONE of our FE unions, visited your campuses and supported YOUR CAMPAIGNS.

FE unions deserve autonomy, they deserve their own spaces and they deserve to be supported by NUS-USH. Our next president needs to have an in-depth knowledge and experience of both FE and HE.

I pledge to work with ALL of our FE unions and ensure they have a voice in every decision we make as a union we must be representative and we must be united.

SU DEVELOPMENT

The SUs in Northern Ireland are some of the least supported, developed and resourced in the UK yet our unions are delivering some of the most important work of any.

YOU deserve a students' union which is taken seriously on a national and international stage. YOU also deserve a union which is listened to and valued within your own college or university.

WE have far to go to ensure the autonomy of QUBSU, and even further to go to ensure that students' unions in our FE colleges can grow strong, be sustained and have the stability of our HE unions.

I pledge to assist all of our unions in their efforts to define their autonomy, build strength in their unions and represent students to the best of their abilities.