



VOTE #1 JEROEN VAN HERK VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNITIES

WHY I AM RUNNING

Over the last years I have seen students dropping out, become homeless, struggling to make ends meet or even getting hospitalised because of the strain that is **student poverty**. Yet, when meeting Student Presidents earlier this year, Education Minister Richard Lochhead, had the cheek to call our Student Support System '**generous**'.

What does it tell us when politicians, who themselves were given grants during their study and who proceed over a society where the richest 10% have over 900 times more wealth than the poorest 10%, find it hard to come to recognise **our struggles**? What does it tell us when our institutions are given the option to either **cut courses** drastically or put a **price tag** on our education?

The answer is clear: if we want to fight for the eradication of poverty, campaign for keeping our education free from price tags, and widen our education in the face of cuts, our message should be clear: no more compromises.

"Delivering a **National Bargaining Process** for our **Support System**, dealing with **Marketisation of our education**, and **fighting off further cuts** to our NUS Scotland: as students are facing hardship our movement must come together and unite..."

I am standing to be elected as NUS Scotland's VP Communities. I have been an active member of our student movement for a number of years during which I have fought for many students who face a daily struggle caused by a Government that simply fails to deliver. My focus will be on actively campaigning for those facing the greatest of hardships.

OVER THE LAST YEARS I HAVE:

- During 14/15 & 15/16, President of Edinburgh College Students' Association brought FE entitlement to forefront of NUS Scotland
- Part of NUS Scotland Exec Committee 14/15, 16/17, 17/18...
- Recently re-elected exec officer at Abertay SA
- Fought against course cuts and further marketization of our education
- Ensured Student Welfare is at the **heart** of AbertaySA
- Proposed a motion that was passed to work with UCU

My Priorities

PRIORITISING STUDENT HARDSHIP

- Campaign to create a National Bargaining Process between NUS Scotland and the Scottish Government
- Continue NUS Scotland's work on Student Homelessness and Student Housing

BREXIT

- Fight for a continuous right for EU students to study tuition- and visa free
- Lobby to ensure institutions don't take advantage by raising tuitions

PROTECT YOUR INSTITUTION

- Campaign to ban TEF (marketising education) from Scotland
- Push for better Students' Association block grants

A STRONGER MOVEMENT

- Partnership working with Trade Unions
- A bigger say to members on core decisions within NUS and more transparency