

NUS-USI

GENERAL ELECTION 2019

A MANIFESTO FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

#whenstudentslead

WHEN STUDENTS LEAD



Let's reset our society so that the wider, public good of all our citizens is the driving force behind our policy and actions. Our manifesto focuses on three principles for action:

An end to Brexit for the public good

The last few years have seen the UK divided. Brexit has created political paralysis and, too often, a less tolerant and more fearful society. Meanwhile, students and young people have been ignored by too many politicians. Yet it is the future generations who stand to lose most.

Brexit dominates this general election. We call on all politicians to reject the narrow-minded, insular attitude that threatens to make the UK poorer – socially and financially.



NUS-USI wants parties standing in these elections to commit to these essential policies:

- 1 Prevent a no-deal Brexit and recognise that the best deal is the current one we have – staying in the EU
- 2 Guarantee that Northern Ireland's share of a post-Brexit Shared Prosperity Fund is devolved to Stormont
- 3 Guarantee that the levels of funding for Northern Ireland through current EU structural funds are not diminished in any way post-Brexit
- 4 Ensure European Social Fund apprenticeship resourcing is retained and guarantee protections for EU national apprentices post-Brexit
- 5 Protect inward and outward student mobility post-Brexit, including participation in Erasmus+ or any successor schemes and cross-border study on the island of Ireland
- 6 Create a fair immigration system for all migrants including international students, with post-study work visas lasting at least two years
- 7 Ensure no hard border on the island of Ireland and protect the Good Friday Agreement

NUS-USI

GENERAL ELECTION 2019

A MANIFESTO FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

#whenstudentslead

WHEN
STUDENTS
LEAD

An education system for the public good

Education is the fuel for our society and economy. It is the gateway to equality. It's where we'll find solutions to climate change. It's how we get qualified to get a job and re-train when the world changes.

NUS-USI has a vision for an education system that is free from tuition fees and that delivers increased financial support for students.

Whilst the politicians elected to UK Parliament predominantly legislate on the English system, NUS-USI knows that through its decisions, budgets can grow or shrink. For more than a decade, overall spend on education in England has fallen. The next UK Parliament should put this right with due regard to the knock-on effect its decisions have to students studying in Northern Ireland.

But right now, UK Parliament has even more power. Politicians in Westminster must do more than sit on their hands and wait for Stormont to sit again.

We believe that politicians must:

- 1 Work to develop a new post-16 education system in Northern Ireland that is accessible, fully-funded by government and lifelong
- 2 Move from a marketised approach to education to one where cooperation, partnership and collaboration are central
- 3 Deliver inflationary increases in student support across further and higher education
- 4 Deliver legislation to protect the role, autonomy and democracy of students' unions
- 5 Abolish the Prevent Duty in further and higher education



NUS-USI

GENERAL ELECTION 2019

A MANIFESTO FOR
THE PUBLIC GOOD



A healthy society for the public good

For students to thrive in their education they must be able to live and work in a healthy society. They must be able to access support for mental or physical health needs. They have a right to safe and affordable housing. They need to have their voices represented and not be faced with unfair constraints when voting. And, as a society, we have to address the climate crisis to safeguard our future.

Many of the decisions that UK Parliament will take on these issues will only be made for students in England. Yet the funding decisions will either grow or shrink the funds available for Northern Ireland. Just as we ask UK Parliament to give due regard to its decisions on education, we ask for the same in areas of health, housing and the environment.

But right now, UK Parliament has even more power as Stormont continues to sit empty. Politicians in Westminster must ensure society in Northern Ireland does not suffer.

All political parties should commit to:

- 1 Invest in the NHS to address the mental health crisis
- 2 Ensure that accommodation cost is no a barrier to access and ensure that accommodation is decent, safe and affordable
- 3 Ensure equality and rights for all, including: enactment of marriage equality; free, safe, legal and local access to abortion; trans-competent healthcare; gender recognition reform; creation of an Irish Language act; and rights for refugees and asylum seekers
- 4 Invest in healthcare students to ensure the future of the NHS workforce and reduce healthcare inequalities
- 5 Take urgent action on the climate crisis and work towards sustainable development goals

