

RACHEL O'BRIEN FOR DISABLED STUDENTS OFFICER

Hello, my name is Rachel O'Brien and I am your current Disabled Students' Officer! This year, I have been concentrating on building the grassroots - from creating a toolkit about how to set up and keep your disabled students' group active, to running regional political education days for disabled students. I have also been working to challenge the cuts to Disabled Students' Allowance and to stop the privatisation of mental health services with activists from disabled students' groups, trade unions and community groups.

Re-elect me to lead the Disabled Students' Campaign for one more year - keeping the campaign actively anti-austerity, and challenging the government on the devastating cuts that affect us all as disabled people. Re-elect me for a Disabled Students' Campaign truly dedicated to liberation, and putting the resources into your hands so you can campaign for liberation on your campuses and cities too.

Please email me at racheljobrien16@gmail.com if you have any questions, or you need this manifesto in another format!

MY RECORD

- NUS Disabled Students' Officer 2017-18
- NUS Disabled Students' Campaign 2nd Place 2016-17
- Birmingham Guild of Students Disability and Mental Health Students' Association Campaigns Rep 2016-17
- Birmingham Guild of Students Women's Association Disabled Rep 2014-17

LIBERATING THE CURRICULUM

Great work has been done to liberate and decolonise the curriculum from a range of perspectives, but very little has been done on disability. It is essential that disabled students see themselves reflected in the curriculum, and that how we talk about disabled people in our education fundamentally changes.

I will:

- Produce resources with organisations such as the Disability History Month and sector groups like HE Academy on how universities and colleges can include disability and the social model in the curriculum.
- Develop a framework for liberating vocational education and apprenticeships with the National Society of Apprentices.
- Campaign with the Alliance for Inclusive Education to ensure the method of teaching and assessments is inclusive of and accessible to disabled students.

JESS BRADLEY, NUS TRANS OFFICER

"Rachel has led a vibrant and forward thinking campaign this year. From her grassroots political education days to taking action on universal credit, the Disabled Students Campaign is safe in her hands. I can't wait to see what she achieves next year"



UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Universal Credit is creating untold misery across the country - disabled people having their premiums scrapped, tenants going into rent arrears, and full time disabled students unable to claim at all. We must use our collective power to stop the roll out and scrap Universal Credit!

I will:

- Run regional training days with Unite Community to build capacity amongst disabled students' groups to fight Universal Credit roll outs.
- Campaign for a "Stop and Scrap" of Universal Credit with disabled students' organisations - both lobbying and direct action.
- Continue to lobby MPs for an end to Universal Credit.



JADE HALL-SMITH DSC BLACK REP AND GOLDSMITHS SU

"Rachel has been an advocate, activist, and role model for many disabled students and has pushed for or worked on many campaigns in order to make change for marginalised students, this is not just limited to disabled students because she has also worked with other committees to ensure intersectional students are also supported. From her grassroots work with Keep our NHS Public to her fight against the rollout for universal credit, Rachel has shown true commitment, persistence and strength, and that is why I'm voting to re-elect her as the NUS Disabled Students' Officer!"

RACE AND RACISM IN DISABLED SPACES

Disabled students of colour face a double marginalisation - both that of racism and disablism. Spaces in our movement are all too often openly or structurally hostile to People of Colour. Black and muslim students' mental health is weaponised under PREVENT and by the state. We owe it to every disabled student of colour that this ends now. I will work to ensure every disabled space we have is inclusive and decolonised.

I will:

- Write and run a survey into the experiences of disabled students of colour in accessing disabled students groups and the NUS Disabled Students' Campaign.
- Work alongside BSC to conduct focus groups with students of colour and disabled activists of colour into the issues affecting disabled people of colour.
- Integrate the findings of the focus groups into our campaigns.

POLITICAL EDUCATION ON YOUR CAMPUS

This year, we saw dozens of students come to political education days to learn about the theories and history of the disabled people's movement. Now I want to enable you to bring it onto your campuses, to not just dozens of disabled students but hundreds.

I will:

- Write and publish a toolkit about how to do run political education activities on your campuses
- Create online resources with disabled activists and disabled people's organisations so you can access the information easily and remotely.



RE-ELECT RACHEL #1 FOR DSO!