#StudentsDeserveBetter Town Hall Meeting: Sharing your story

Thank you for registering to attend our Town Hall meeting on International Day of the Student! Politicians have been ignoring the challenges students have been facing this year for too long, and it’s important that we show them the reality that we’re dealing with. Your story will help us to do this.

Here are some tips on how you can prepare for the event:

* Write down your story. Whether it’s word for word or bullet points, it definitely makes it easier to remember everything if you have a ‘script’. We’re asking all students to submit their written stories to us in advance so that we can make sure we have a wide range of students represented on the day. The deadline to send this to us is XX
* Keep it short. We all have so much to share about what’s happening, but politicians are more likely to remember your story if it’s short and to the point. Aim for it to be no longer than 3 to 5 minutes, or 400 – 750 words.
* We recommend that you follow this simple format:
* Who are you?
* What’s the biggest problem you have faced this year?
* How has it impacted you?

Starting off with some context about who you are, what you’re studying and what level you’re at will help politicians to see that students are a diverse group and everyone has an individual story to tell. There have been lots of headlines about how students have been coping with lockdowns, isolation, less in-person class time and less social contact – but first-hand accounts of how that has really been making you feel and affecting you on a daily basis turn those headlines into a reality.

* Make sure you take some time to practice beforehand, just so that you’re more comfortable when it’s your turn. But don’t worry about being the perfect public speaker – the politicians are there to hear about your reality, they don’t need a polished performance!
* Remember that your lived experience is valid even if it’s different to someone else’s. You might worry that your story isn’t as ‘important’ as someone else’s or that others are worse off, but the challenges you have faced do matter. Sharing your story could be one of the most significant ways that you can help to change things for the better.
* If you are feeling distressed while preparing your story, delivering it at the event or afterwards, there is support available (link to support services your SU recommends). We will have a separate online support room available for you during the event where you will be able to speak to someone from the students’ union. The link for this will be made available at the start of the event, and if you need help outside that time please do get in touch with one of our team (contact).