

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee Candidates

The following candidates are standing for election to this Zone Committee

Manifestos are available from page 2 onwards and are in alphabetical order by surname. Those standing for Committee places and NEC have one candidate statement which is included in the main list.

Candidates for FE positions' statements are listed separately

Dalu Canise University of Bedfordshire Students' Union
Abdi Duale GSM London
Ahmed Mahbub Queen Mary Students' Union
Kieran Maxwell University of Sheffield Students' Union
Aisling Murray Sussex Students Union
Florence Onwumere London Metropolitan University Students' Union
Chisomo Phiri University of Swansea Students' Union
Rob Simkins Trinity Saint David Students' Union
Joseph Tema Goldsmiths Student's Union
Riddi Viswanath University of Manchester Student's Union
FE Candidates
Amy Smith Sheffield College Students' Union
Dan Wood Dudley College Students' Union
NEC Place
Florence Onwumere London Metropolitan University Students' Union
Riddi Viswanath University of Manchester Student's Union



Dalu Canise **Bedfordshire Student Union**

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee

Vote DALU CANISE #1 for SOC CIT ZONE COMMITTEE

In an unpredictable political climate, it is important to ensure that students and young people are engaged in every way possible. It is important to ensure that the youth do not lose their chance to have a say in the direction of this country and so vote at 16 is an important issue to pursue to ensure that the "post-code lottery" of the voting age ends just as much as environmental protection and sustainability must be ensured in order for us all to have a place to stay and engage with life.

From working with international and BME students to fight against all forms of discrimination/hate crime and disparity to supporting Jewish and Muslim students to make sure anti-Semitism and Islamophobia has no place on campus and also working with the LGBT, disabled and mature students to ensure safety, inclusivity and engagement on all campuses, I have the required knowledge and experience to be a part of this committee to represent you and hold our officers to account.

I have encouraged, empowered and campaigned for more students' involvement and participation in politics which resulted in an increase in participation during our Union elections, Brexit and the general election in order for them to have a say in what affects them.

I'm not afraid to hold the officers to account and ensure every student across the country is effectively represented on a national level. More than ever, we need a unified movement, we need our national union to stop fighting internally and start working together to fight and make big wins for students.

Elect me and I will ensure your views are effectively represented on the committee.

Vote DALU CANISE #1 for SOC CIT ZONE.

Abdi Duale **GSM London**

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee

Hi, my name is Abdi Duale and I'm running to be a member of the SocCit Zone Committee. I'm a student at GSM London and serve on the NUS's Advisory Group for Sustainability.

Over the last year I've lead the way in helping my University set up it's student union, I've founded the Islamic Society, co-founded the Afro Caribbean Society and helped the Christian Society set up. I absolutely believe that it's when our universities embrace the diversity on our campuses, that we can produce graduates that truly reflect the diversity of our country.

As the son of refugees who came to Britain fleeing war and famine in Somalia, I've been at the forefront of the #RefugeesWelcome campaign on my campus and in my Borough - Ealing. It's the values my parents passed on to me from a young age, help all the people you can, especially the most vulnerable in society.

Our campuses are becoming more polarised, with the rise in social media bullying, Anti-semitism, Islamophobia, Transphobia, Sexism and other kinds of hatred. The Brexit vote has given extreme and offensive views the green light to be expressed, and that's why it's even more important now more than ever, that we protect our safe spaces.

Our generation faces many challenges, one of them being climate change. We see its effects like; loss of sea ice, accelerated sea level rise and longer, more intense heat waves. That's why our priority campaign - #TheLastStraw - is so important.

If elected to this role, I will assist the Society & Citizenship Vice President to successfully achieve his objectives and hold him to account to ensure that his words are turned into action.



For a zone that is bold, radical and transformative. Vote Abdi Duale #1 for Society and Citizenship Zone Committee.

Ahmed Mahbub
Queen Mary Students' Union

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee

Coming from one of the few unions where the student staff are paid London living, I understand the value that it brings to low income students such as myself and I will ensure that this is adopted by every union, no longer should students be exploited, we deserve a fair pay. More also must be done to ensure that low income and zero income students are able to get the same benefits as their well-off peers, currently we are working alongside our university for the introduction of the QM model, which will increase the social capital of the students, this is something I intend to push the VP into lobbying for in all unions.

I also pledge to provide support in pushing for the campaign votes@16, so much responsibilities are trust on us since 16, yet voting isn't one of the privileges we're allowed, this is outrageous and I intend to lobby the government alongside the Society and Citizenship zone, to ensure a change to this outdated rule, once and for all.

A referendum on Europe, a transformational general election - 16-18 year olds have been left out of the conversation on decisions that determine their critical years and will impact the rest of their lives. When we say, we need an engaged student body - we must mean the entire student body including the millions of our members in post-16 further education.

More must be done to tackle hate crimes, we have seen a spike in Islamophobic attacks, as well as heightened racism and anti-Semitism. With 42% of hate crimes occurring in educational institutes, it is our duty to keep pressurising our universities to do more for students, to make sure that they feel safe to study.

Kieran Maxwell
University of Sheffield Students' Union

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee

Hello, I'm Kieran and I'm the President of the University of Sheffield Students' Union. I think the Society and Citizenship Zone is incredibly important, as it's essential that the student movement uses its incredible power to reach out to the wider community.

I think it's absolutely paramount that students are engaged with our political system. If the 2017 General Election has shown us anything, it's that when students get out there and vote, we can make a real difference. In Sheffield, we campaigned successfully for voter registration to happen as part the enrolment process. This has had a significant impact on the politics of our city, and is something I feel the NUS should be campaigning to be the standard across the country; this is something I could hopefully help with should I be elected to the Zone Committee. As well as this, we should be including campaigning to include our members down to age 16 in the voting process.

I want to work to create an NUS that empowers SUs to campaign for a living wage, to end the scandal of low paid work in our universities and unions.

I also think it's important that we extend our solidarity to refugees and migrants, and work to have the government act on the current crisis.

Take it to the Maxwell! Vote Kieran for Soc Cit Zone Committee!



Aisling Murray
Sussex Students Union

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee
Standing for NEC place for this Zone Committee

Hi I'm Aisling from Sussex Students' Union and I am one of the three society and citizenship officers in the U.K.

I'm running to be part of the society and citizenship committee because I believe that when unions work collectively together we can achieve more.

At Sussex we have already achieved divestment from fossil fuels, a no straw policy and disposable coffee cups. We have continually been awarded gold for green impact because our commitment to sustainability is leading in the sector.

All students should be valued not just in their university community but their local community outside of the university too. Training student volunteers in community organising is a great way to increase student engagement in the community. Housing is an issue that affects everyone and I have set up a tenants union at Sussex to defend the rights of tenants in the housing crisis. With housing becoming a greater issue I have been on hand to help our students and have made sure our university acts as a guarantor for international students as well as fighting for cheaper and more affordable Accomodation.

As a union that has implemented automatic voter registration for students I will work to make sure that we help unions up and down the country achieve this. I am a strong believer in votes at 16 because young people deserve to have a role shaping their government and this is an area where higher education students can really support further education students. We have also lobbied university management to award 20 scholarships for refugees and expanding this across the sector is vital.

I want to bring my experience of ethical and environmental action, community engagement, active citizenship and housing to this committee in order to help other unions implement positive change.

Florence Onwumere
London Metropolitan University

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee
Standing for NEC place for this Zone Committee

Hi my name's Florence Onwumere and I'm currently a sabb at London Metropolitan Students' Union. At my SU I broke down systematic barriers to my success to become the first black woman elected as Students' Union President at London Met SU in its history.

If you elect me as your society and citizenship second place my main goals would be: to engage more students in the issues surrounding climate change and how to get engaged in sustainability campaigns that make a difference, to lobby to get votes at 16 so young people can have a say in their future and getting SU's more involved in campaigning for refugees to be welcomed by our communities. I will help the zone to reach its full potential by getting students unions involved in all these campaigns. On campuses' we tend to work in the interests of our own students but this zone really gives us the power to have wider influence than that.

The work that the society and citizenship campaign does can have a huge impact on students and wider society and I want to be a part of that. Go with the Flo for NEC second place and lets build a better, stronger movement!



Chisomo Phiri
University of Swansea Students' Union

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee

Hi everyone,

I'm Chizi, the President of Swansea Students' Union and I'm running to be on Soc Cit Committee. As the first black woman president in Wales, I want to do more to engage BME Community groups with their students union and help them form links which will benefit BME Students on campuses and the community.

Brexit will have a huge effect on the Welsh economy, and it is a situation that is not being spoken about in a constructive manner at the moment. We need to be amplifying the voices of students during this time to make sure that the world gets the message - wales is open!

We've launch bystander intervention training, consent workshops and free sanitary products for women which I want to roll out to homeless women in Swansea. Homelessness is a national crisis and at the moment homeless women are not being able to access basic sanitary products - students' unions are ideally located to be able to help with this due to our geographical spread. We need a national call to action for SU's and Students to get involved in

Rob Simkins
Trinity Saint David Students' Union

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee

Shwmae / Hi!

My name is Rob Simkins, I'm President at TSDSU and I am standing for election to the Society & Citizenship Zone Committee. So, why do I deserve your vote?

I am a tenacious, passionate and innovative individual who is capable of working within a team or on task alone. As part of my role, I am no stranger to representing a rich mix of demographics, scattered sporadically through Wales and beyond. This requires me to be an effective communicator and work efficiently with a range of teams and individuals across a wide plethora of issues in order to ensure our students are represented and supported effectively.

As a dedicated member of the NUS Wales NEC and the QAA's Student Advisory Committee, I am an experienced committee member - who shares a passion for the scheme of work within the Society & Citizenship zone. As part of the Wales NEC, I am involved with work to transform the post-16 education system for a more accessible, more inclusive and more empowering education for all, which will promote civic engagement for learners across Wales and beyond by educating on issues such as sustainability, poverty and prejudice in order to address these issues we all face within our communities. This will also include lobbying for votes at 16 within Welsh Government elections, a common goal shared by many in Wales and the rest of the UK.

A vote for me is a vote for an individual who listens, and ensures that campaigns and policy are shaped for students, by students - whomever they may be. I will work tirelessly with the rest of the zone to ensure that together, we are able to bring a beneficial effect to students across the UK.

I hope I can count on your vote.

Joseph Tema **Goldsmiths Student's Union**

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee

I'm JT (Joseph Tema), Campaigns and Activities Officer at Goldsmiths SU.

In our union, we have become a hate crime reporting centre, have worked to establish asylum seeker and humanitarian scholarships and I ensured that there was a voter registration form in every room in student accommodation.

I'm running for Soc Cit committee because I believe that it is a zone that is often misunderstood by students and officers alike.

Having campaigned for Votes at 16 during my time in the UK Youth Parliament, it remains something I am passionate about lobbying for. With an ageing population, it's more important than ever we have a strong politically engaged youth to ensure we are still doing the best we can for young people.

The need for this is evident in the case of Brexit. Whatever your views on Brexit, young people overwhelmingly voted to remain but failed to have their views heard nationally. Soc Cit should play a vital role in supporting our membership to ensure it's voices are influential.

In the wake of last year's referendum, we have seen a steady rise in hate crime and the far right have been emboldened in their hatred. This zone must ensure it is committed to defending marginalised students, whilst working towards eradicating discrimination in our society.

It is our duty to ensure that our membership are aware of their impact on the environment and this zone is pivotal in encouraging our membership to make changes to their lifestyle that will protect our planet. Teaching these behaviours now will help to change the future and the student movement has a huge opportunity to shape member's behaviours.

It is imperative that our society and citizenship zone is as diverse and inclusive as possible, so please vote JT (Joseph Tema) for Soc Cit.

Riddi Viswanathan **University of Manchester Students' Union**

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee
Standing for NEC place for this Zone Committee

I'm Riddi, the Diversity Officer of University of Manchester Students' Union. I'm running to be elected as the NEC Place for Soc Cit Zone.

During my first 3 months, I fulfilled 3 of my 5 manifesto pledges. My union was lacking in its engagement with International Students, with International Students' Guide, Pre-departure Q&A and Multilingual welcome – we have had a record number of International Students running for part time officer positions. I have worked with FE Institutions – getting them to sign up to our campaigns and supporting their engagement. I get things done so are you #ReadyForRiddi ?

If elected:

I pledge to support International Students' Participation. How many people knew the Soc Cit Zone covers Internationalisation Remit within NUS? At a time where Britain is looking increasingly isolated we need someone to ensure Students and Students' Union are combatting this rhetoric so the world knows – the UK is open!

I will work with students from Commonwealth Countries to encourage them to register and vote! Many students are unaware they have the right to vote here so we need a national drive to encourage their registration! I passed a motion at NUS International Students' Conference to do this and I can lead on this working across the movement.

I will take the Equal Access campaign forward by campaigning not just for scholarships but for asylum seekers' employment rights.

I have drafted and passed policies both at my Union's senate and NUS, I will use this experience to support HE & FE delegates in writing policies to campaign for change in their unions and beyond.



I will review, commend & critique the work of the VP ensuring people are receiving updates on the work of the committee.

So get #ReadyForRiddi and Vote Riddi Visu #1 Soc Cit NEC

FE Candidates

Amy Smith

Sheffield College students union

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee

Further education needs to be at the forefront of the society and citizenship zone, from sustainable unions to brexit, votes at 16 and making sure our students are registered to and know what they are voting for, this year the zone has done so much for FE, I'd like to continue the work we've started and truly bring FE to the table.

Dan Wood

Dudley College Students' Union

Society and Citizenship Zone Committee

Hi, I'm Dan and I am passionate about votes & 16 and tackling hate crime. Where i'm from in little old Dudley, there has been a 17% rise in hate crime since the vote to leave the EU. We CANNOT stand for this ignorance in our communities.

We need a strong soc & cit zone to help educate students up & down the UK on hate crime, so we can work with our local police forces to tackle this issue. We must stand united in our efforts to rid of the burden of ignorance in our towns & cities.

I would have wrote more but they only gave us to 2pm to do these... Rubbish!

Vote for me for fair, balance & effective views.
