

# Society and Citizenship Report

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<b>Action:</b>	Approve

## Section 1 | Priorities for 2016-17

Projects	Progress
Write here a title or name which most closely describes your project	How has this area of work progressed since it's commencement
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p>This year, the main areas that I will be focusing on for Sustainability are – Emissions Impossible, Green Impact, getting SUs to become 100% Fairtrade with Epona, Dissertations for Good, and education for sustainable development.</p> <p><b><u>Emissions Impossible</u></b></p> <p>On the 2nd of September we launched the new campaign for #DivestInvest to #EmissionsImpossible. We subsequently launched a campaign guide, and have been supporting individual unions as they engage their institutions through the campaign. We have also been supporting UCU with their efforts to get the University pensions scheme to divest from fossil fuels, including organising a demonstration outside their members meeting in December. We are also working with both FE and HE unions on renewable energy consumption &amp; procurement, and will progress this through Go Green week in February 2017.</p> <p><b><u>Fairtrade</u></b></p> <p>I went to India in October 2016 to visit the farms Epona use and to meet the workers in our factories. At #SU2016 30 officers signed a pledge to look at how we can help SU's to provide Epona in their SU's, and we did further engagement work at Strategic Conversation in December 2016. I have subsequently been visiting these SUs to talk to them about the benefits of Fairtrade. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March we will have a national campaign day on Fairtrade, as part of Fairtrade Fortnight.</p> <p><b><u>Dissertations for Good</u></b></p> <p>This is our new scheme to help students' complete coursework that helps social causes. We have 774 student registrations for (178 projects listed), 10 university members, and 25 community organisations (41 projects listed), with proactive matching ongoing, and 7 confirmed matches so far. The scheme is free for students to use.</p> <p><b><u>Green Impact</u></b></p> <p>The new version for FE has been launched and five colleges and their SUs have signed up so far. The new model involves the SU and the college working together</p>

	<p>on the scheme, to compete with other colleges. On Green Impact, in November 2016 NUS won a UNESCO Prize for Education for Sustainable Development for 10 years of the scheme. We are distributing the prize money to SUs through our new Green Impact micro grants scheme.</p>
Political Engagement	<p>Around Political engagement my aims for the year are around Voter registration, Votes at 16, Working with Trade Unions to get more students into Trade unions, campaigning for living wage.</p> <p>Most of the work on this is for post demo.</p> <p><b><u>Votes at 16</u></b></p> <p>Supported the UKYP with their lobby day when they met with local politicians to supports votes at 16</p> <p>Launched a resource around votes at 16 Students to use during lobby days and debates.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/votes-at-16-briefing">http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/votes-at-16-briefing</a></p> <p><b><u>Voter Registration</u></b></p> <p>An amendment has been laid for automatic voter registration for all students by Paul Bloomfield MP at the Bill Committee of the HER Bill. This amendment was as a result of NUS working with Paul on amendments. Went to the cabinet office to fight for automatic voter registration</p> <p>Supported Keele, Staffs and NUS USI during National Voter Registration week to ensure that students were registered to vote</p> <p><b><u>Trade Union membership</u></b></p> <p>Worked with the TUC on student trade union involvement, to continue alongside TUC's campaigning for young workers, Also working with the National Society of Apprentices on getting young people into trade unions</p> <p>Have negotiated a partnership agreement with Unions 21, who work to ensure the trade union movement is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This will include a reduced individual supporter rate for SUs and joint work on making unions more relevant to students and younger workers.</p> <p>With the VP FE I gave evidence to the Low Pay Commission in September, arguing for equal pay for younger workers and apprenticeships and a true living wage for all.</p>
Strengthening Society	<p>To ensure that are campaigning on a better, fairer and more equal society I will be working on the following areas, Save OUR Human Rights Act, Sex and Relationship Education, hate crime reporting Centres, and Research into the Experiences of Jewish Students in Higher Education.</p> <p><b><u>SRE</u></b></p> <p>Worked with Melantha Chittenden the LGBT+ Officer (Womens Place) Terrence Higgins trust, National Student Pride, students' unions, students and many MPs to support the SRE bill going through parliament during February</p> <p><a href="http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/sre-valentine-s-card-to-mp">http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/sre-valentine-s-card-to-mp</a></p>

	<p>Working with liberation officers and the SRE group to create a shared vision of SRE ready to respond to government consultations and influence a better SRE.</p> <p><b><u>Jewish Students Research</u></b></p> <p>Convened a group of Jewish students as a steering group for research into the experience of Jewish students on campus. Launched the survey in September, to close mid-February, and the report will be launching the findings in April.</p> <p><b><u>Responding to Brexit</u></b></p> <p>Went to the launch of Human Rights Act campaign, and will continue to work to protect the Human Rights Act as we go through Brexit.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/students-stand-up-for-your-rights">http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/students-stand-up-for-your-rights</a></p> <p>Since Brexit we have seen a huge increase in hate crimes across the UK that is why along with Melantha Chittenden the LGBT+ officer Womens place Launched a tool kit to help students' unions become hate crime reporting centres in January.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/setting-up-a-hate-crime-reporting-centre">http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/setting-up-a-hate-crime-reporting-centre</a></p> <p><b><u>Living Wage</u></b></p> <p>Public money shouldn't be used to prop up poverty pay and that's why this year I have Supported and ran campaigns across the UK fighting for a national living wage for all university &amp; Students' Union staff –</p> <p>Along with working with the living wage foundation and running campaigns on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March I have been supporting individual SU's across the UK to implement a living wage.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/public-money-shouldn-t-be-used-to-prop-up-poverty-pay">http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/public-money-shouldn-t-be-used-to-prop-up-poverty-pay</a></p>
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## Section 2 | Zone Policy

Policy	Progress
Write here the title and unique policy ID	What work has been done in this area
<b>Prisoner Education</b>	NUS is working on this, under the FE Zone. I will provide support to the VP FE and continue to try and reform education in prisons and detention centers.
<b>Students are citizens too Working with Guild HE with their impact report on students in communities</b>	<p>Working with Guild HE with their impact report on students in communities ,</p> <p><a href="http://www.guildhe.ac.uk/blog/active-citizenship-the-role-of-higher-education/">http://www.guildhe.ac.uk/blog/active-citizenship-the-role-of-higher-education/</a></p>

	<p>Launched the Active Citizenship report showing just how much students participate to the local communities and ourselves by SU engagement, also helped with the conference on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March</p> <p><a href="http://www.guildhe.ac.uk/?events=guildhenus-active-citizenship-conference">http://www.guildhe.ac.uk/?events=guildhenus-active-citizenship-conference</a></p>
<b>Refugees welcome in Universities and colleges/ Solidarity with migrants and refugees</b>	<p>Met with various organisations such as STAR and Help Refugees to discuss the refugee crisis. Will soon be holding a joint roundtable with many organisations such as STAR, Help Refugees, Oxfam and SUs (and many more!) to discuss how students can play their role</p> <p>Working with Help Refugees UK, and got SUs from Edinburgh to Plymouth to do collection drives in February to donate food and clothing items that were needed to help with the global refugee crisis.</p> <p>Supported a conference in for asylum seekers and refugees led by a student activist</p> <p>Helped organize students at #BuildBridgesNotWalls events</p>
<b>Fight to save the NHS Supported national strikes and will continue to do so.</b>	<p>Will work with VP Welfare who is leading on this issue to support with campaigning</p>
<b>Standing Up to Racism</b>	<p>Worked with Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FoSIS) and the Union Of Jewish Students (UJS) to launch information on hate crime reporting centres.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/setting-up-a-hate-crime-reporting-centre">http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/setting-up-a-hate-crime-reporting-centre</a></p> <p>Working with FoSIS and other NUS officers on Islamophobia Awareness Month and Prevent</p> <p>Supported and helped organize events against racism and fascism from #TrumpTheBan to #BridgesNotWalls</p> <p>Worked with the Union of Jewish Students on Holocaust memorial day and conducted research into the experiences of Jewish students</p>
<b>Personalized toolkits for lobbying local MP's and councilors</b>	<p>NUS working on tailored resources for lobbying and will produce specific resource for Votes at 16 debate and SRE campaign</p> <p><a href="http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/votes-at-16-briefing">http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/votes-at-16-briefing</a></p>