

Welfare Zone Committee Candidates

The following candidates are standing for election to this Zone Committee

Manifestos are available from page 3 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

Daisy Bow Du Toit University of Kingston Students' Union
Ayaan Cabdi University of East London Students' Union
Mark Crawford University College London Students' Union
Famous Dekeri Salford's Students Union
Esther Dominy Edinburgh University Students' Association
Phill Dowler University for the Creative Arts Students' Union
Luke Ellis Students' Union University of Greenwich
Eliyahu Goldsobel Birkbeck College Students' Union
Rory Hughes Liverpool Guild of Students
Des Ibekwe University of Bristol Students' Union
Molly-Jean Longden Aberystwyth Students' Union
Saqib Mahmood University of Manchester Students' Union
Raquel Marques Middlesex Students' Union
Rosie McKenna Edge Hill Students' Union
Sophia Moreau Birkbeck College, University of London
ChuChu Nwagu Roehampton Students' Union
Jessica Okwuonu De Montfort Student Union
Ayo Olatunji University College London Students' Union
FE Candidates
Naila Mansouri Dudley College Students' Union



Chloe Nichol

Sheffield College Students' Union

NEC Candidates

Mark Crawford

University College London Students' Union

Eliyahu Goldsobel

Birkbeck College Students' Union

Molly-Jean Longden

Aberystwyth Students' Union

Sophia Moreau

Birkbeck College, University of London

Jessica Okwuonu

De Montfort Student Union

Ayo Olatunji

University College London Students' Union



Daisy Bow Du Toit **University of Kingston Students' Union**

Welfare Zone Committee

For a radical, powerful & inclusive Welfare zone
vote Daisy for #1

Students don't separate their education from their student experience; as fees and rent prices increase, Universities need to be accountable for the welfare of their students. NUS Welfare campaign needs to start supporting their membership: four months of being a Welfare Officer and I've had no support from the Welfare Campaign – to be honest, I don't even know what they've been working on. I will ensure that the policy, strategy and activity of the campaign will be transparent, inclusive and consultational.

Kingston is proud to be different. We have one of the highest populations of international students, and are recognised for our dedication to widening participation. Kingston is leading the way in closing the BME attainment gap and I am co-leading on a project to support other Student Unions in closing the gap on their campus. Kingston represents the many and not the few and my work and experience as a second year Officer enables me to support a Welfare campaign that should be intersectional and transparent. My MA Gender Without Borders is the theory that supports my practice; the study of intersectionality informs the work I do as a mature, international, part-time student at a diverse institution.

Big debts, stressful balancing of work with studies, while living in a time of Brexit, Trump and the huge rise in hate crime: students are living with increasing anxiety and poor mental health. The Welfare campaign should be collectively working with the liberation networks to listen to students!

I'll support the implementation of sustainable collective policy, while creating space to support grassroots campaigns.

Enabling platforms for students to be active agents in their own liberation, I've fought against sexism, racism, ableism, transphobia and islamophobia on campus.

Ayaan Cabdi **University of East London Students' Union (UELSU)**

Welfare Zone Committee

Ayaan Cabdi for Welfare Zone Committee

Who am I?

I'm an Executive officer serving her first term as Deputy President & Welfare Officer at University of East London Students' Union

Formally served as the Black Students' Officer

What have I achieved for my membership?

- Free printing on both UEL campuses – saving our students thousands of pounds annually!
- Cheaper meals on campus
- Improved accommodation spaces – with communal spaces for people to socialise which aren't their kitchens
- Improved multi faith and prayer facilities for students
- More student paid opportunities via the union – putting as much money back in to their pockets

Why I want to get involved on a national level?

I believe in NUS. I believe in its purpose. I believe in the influence it can have. Education has never been more expensive and more inaccessible. With no grants, limited support services on our campuses and an increase demand for support annually we have a problem.

What do I want to achieve?

- Lobby the government for the return of maintenance grants and bursaries
- Increase in support services provided on every campus throughout the United Kingdom



- More support for Further Education students
- Organise a national conference with all welfare officers and all Directors of Students' Support creating a national conversation exclusively on Student Welfare and their needs

Mark Crawford **UCLU**

Welfare Zone Committee
Standing for NEC place for this Zone Committee

Hi! I'm a second year officer at UCL's students' union where I'm campaigning for better funded mental health services, rent cuts and financial support for estranged students as well as for our huge parent and carer community. Like every university in 2017, UCL is exploiting its students - treating us like cash cows, pushing us into poverty and responsible for an unprecedented mental health crisis. We need a national union that fights back - demanding universal living grants nationally, so as that education is truly free and accessible to all, and on a local level empowering unions and activists to win decent funding for their student support services.

Famous Dekeri **Salford Students Union**

Welfare Zone Committee

Welfare as a Zone should prioritise campaigns like mental health and well being, the student housing crisis, students not suspects! I'm running for a committee position because I feel like my experiences and passion will add a much needed expertise to this Zone!

Esther Dominy **Edinburgh University Students' Association**


Welfare Zone Committee

Hi, I'm Esther, Vice President Welfare at Edinburgh University Students' Association!
From housing to mental health, the Welfare zone deals with some of the most pressing issues facing students in the UK. As the first Welfare sabb at Edinburgh, I know how hard it can be to work on welfare in the face of institutions that don't provide the space for it, and NUS should be providing unions with all the tools they need.

As a member of NUS UK Women's Committee, I'm hoping to build on the crucial work the campaign has done around sexual misconduct, by creating a guide that unions and women's officers can work from to change policy and set up campaigns at their institutions. I'll push Welfare Committee to do the same, creating easy to access resources that are relevant to different unions on how to run welfare campaigns. As a student from Scotland, I'll ensure Welfare zone work is relevant to the nations -- different legal, education and healthcare systems mean our housing is subject to different legislation and our mental health services to different funding, and that needs to be reflected in any policy. I will bring that knowledge to Welfare Committee, and make sure its work is representative of and relevant to all our members.

At Edinburgh, I've been working to improve my university's response to sexual violence -- pushing for a new reporting procedure, working to relaunch a university wide campaign, and securing bystander training for students and disclosure training for staff. I've been working to make extenuating circumstances policies fairer, and pushing for my university to deliver on its promise to implement mental health first aid for frontline staff.

So for a strong voice on Welfare Committee, vote Esther #1!



Phill Dowler

University for the Creative Arts Students' Union

Welfare Zone Committee

Hi, I'm Phill!

I'm running for Welfare Committee because I believe small and specialist unions - particularly those attached to arts institutions - are disproportionately impacted by a lot of welfare issues, yet underrepresented within the campaign.

Arts students tend to struggle to cover rent and living costs, because of the high hidden course costs they incur, and because their courses tend to be so time-intensive they have less opportunity to take on paid work (and are more likely to be offered work 'for exposure'). Arts students - much like PG students on all types of courses - are at higher risk of poor mental health because of the amount of solo study they undertake. At the same time, most arts institutions are also small and specialist, so our unions are underfunded and less able to take direct action.

I believe NUS welfare campaign can:

- Do more to support unions (particularly unions with fewer resources) in taking grassroots action
- Provide guidance for smaller unions on fighting for better mental health provisions for students
- Do more to support our art students who are disproportionately impacted by welfare issues

To work as a true NUS collective, smaller unions need to be able to take direct action and prioritise liberation in welfare, alongside larger unions.

Luke Ellis

Students' Union University of Greenwich

Welfare Zone Committee

Hey! My name is Luke, and I'm the Vice President Welfare at Greenwich Students' Union - in my second term. I want to be elected on to the Welfare Committee to steer the Welfare Campaign to be more relevant and accessible for students who need it. It's clear that we are at an exciting, transformative point at NUS, with a breath of fresh air and a new sense of leadership and I want to make a small contribution to that by sitting on the Welfare Committee.

Should I be elected, I would want to make the Welfare Committee:

- Accessible: The NUS has a habit of targeting factions, and specific groups of students to maintain their place and power in the student movement. But, as we know, there are thousands of students who don't care about any of that - they just want their experience to be as good as possible and know what the NUS can do for them.
- Campaigning: Not everything has to be "taken to the streets" with placards and megaphones. Some of the biggest changes can happen through constructive, educated conversations and I will do my best to ensure the Welfare Committee is having these discussions and empowering students to have these discussions locally!
- Essential: Make the Welfare Campaign essential to the student movement, and make it a priority... Whether it's Mental Health, to Accommodation. Liberation, to Student Safety. Welfare is at the core of Students' Unions, and NUS needs to champion that!

Make an A.C.E decision, and elect Luke Ellis on to the Welfare Committee!



Eliyahu Goldsobel **Birkbeck College, University of London**

Welfare Zone Committee
Standing for NEC place for this Zone Committee

Manifesto

By Eli/Elijah/Rabbi/just don't call me late for dinner

THE NEW ROAD OUT OF NEUTRAL: While protecting individual's rights and identities are important, the community, the student community, would be the essential part of making sure this continues. For this we will be taking the Coexist campaign onto the next level. Where we help individuals promote their cultures, to share in our differences, making for an all inclusive and hospitable student community.

GETTING INTO GEAR: With all the changes happening within the government in matters of education, making sure we get value for our studies, a higher level of communication and unity between faculties will be needed. I am referring to TEF, a unified front is a must.

THE WOW FACTOR: Alongside the priority of community, making sure legal aid and welfare is available is an essential part of the Rule of Law. For that reason, with the current changes in fiscal policy from the government around this and the reorganisation of how lawyers become lawyers, I will be, in accordance with my studies and the faculty at the School of Law, working towards unifying the direction we, as a community, take.

IF A NECESSITY FOR YOU IS JUSTICE, VOTING FOR ME IS A MUSTICE*!

Stay tuned for further updates as would like to start at the beginning of the year starts. Don't forget, a leader is only as good as the people that put him/her there. With a task this big, we at the SU will need all the help we can get and with UNITY all is possible.

*Disclaimer, Mustice is not an actual word.

Rory Hughes **Liverpool Guild of Students**

Welfare Zone Committee

In an age of austerity student welfare has never been more important. Whilst debt-fuelled expansion in student numbers means there are more working-class, BME and disabled students going to university than ever before, many are struggling to remain there. The NUS Welfare zone must do more.

For students to take control over the issues that affect their lives, our NUS welfare zone must always work both in and against the structures of power. We must engage in detailed policy work, advocate to those in authority but also ensure that students are empowered and self-organised.

In my first short months as Vice-President of Liverpool Guild of Students I have been putting those principles into practice and leading on complex welfare issues affecting my members. To tackle the extortionate cost of student bus travel in Liverpool I undertook comprehensive research, engaged with new intricate government legislation and forged a partnership with Labour allies in Regional Government. To further strengthen our negotiating position I am facilitating innovative student-led campaigns on the issue and building solidarity between students and bus workers by supporting the recent Arriva strike.

After the Grenfell Tower tragedy NUS put out the call to Students' Unions to investigate the presence of 'ACM' cladding in high-rise student halls. The guidance formulated by Izzy has been invaluable in Liverpool and is an example of the importance of NUS Welfare. However, most won't even know that such guidance exists! On vital issues, we cannot simply fling a blog into the ether. I will make sure our Welfare Zone is training activists and Officers to prevent students living in extortionate fire-traps.

The political tide is turning. Whether on housing, culturally competent student support, ending Prevent, making our campuses accessible and inclusive if we organise, we can win.

Choose Hughes #1 for Welfare Committee.

Des Ibekwe
Bristol SU

Welfare Zone Committee

Hey everyone!

I'm Des, the Equality, Liberation and Access Officer at Bristol Students' Union and I'm running to sit on the Welfare Committee.

During my term so far, I have overseen in the introduction of University-wide 'Wellbeing advisors' – people dedicated to improving the wellbeing of students on my campus. This is in response to a mental health crisis at Bristol, one which is replicated across the country. I have started a #FreePeriods at Bristol where I was able to get 2000 sanitary products to students on campus and continue to lobby the University for the roll out of free sanitary products for all students.

I've created a group for women and non-binary people of colour at Bristol – ensuring we have dedicated spaces to talk about and campaign on our experiences. We are amongst the most marginalised students on campuses and this forum aims to allow us to show our power through collective action. I am also promoting the diversification of halls of residence at the University.

So why am I running?

NUS need to be providing officers with the arguments, skills and knowledge to champion better funded mental health care – we need action on this urgently as our mental health services come under attack. I want to ensure we are looking at mental health through an intersectional lens – culturally competent care is crucial for students of colour on the ground.

I also want to look at and support work on reducing the costs of living for students. At Bristol, extortionate rent costs continue to price out students from low-income backgrounds every day – we need universities to run accommodation services for people – not just profit!

If you have any questions please do send me an email and vote Des Ibekwe #1 Welfare Committee

Molly-Jean Longden
Aberystwyth Students' Union

Welfare Zone Committee

Standing for NEC place for this Zone Committee

Hi! My name's Molly-Jean and I'm running for Welfare Zone for 2017! I am super excited to be part of the student movement this year and can't believe some of the amazing things that are already coming through the woodwork! I'm originally a northerner and moved to Aberystwyth to study drama back in 2014. I am a super enthusiastic person and believe that as a member of the Welfare Zone and NEC this year I would be able to bring a unique voice to the current student collective.

I've been working in wellbeing and welfare for years now, having ran for wellbeing this year for Aber and managing so far to work with students to create a more inclusive and overall stronger Aber community. I want to continue this work within the Zones this year as I feel that a small town like Aber has a lot to offer when talking about welfare! Although we may be small we are mighty and I'm incredibly proud to be heading the welfare movement this year.

So far I've worked with our local health board to ensure transparency and student involvement in any decisions that affect them; I've managed to work on our model f rag to create a more student centred approach and make sure that they have the last word and I've done so much more this year and hope to continue this streak!

I would love to represent NUS at the welfare zone as I'm a confident and friendly person, making sure to always put my all in and make sure everyone gets the most of the committee and myself that they can. So if you fancy it...

Don't be a wolly, vote for molly!



Saqib Mahmood
University of Manchester Students' Union

Welfare Zone Committee

Hello friends,

My name is Saqib Mahmood and I am running for the Welfare Committee

Having being sectioned under the Mental Health Act and being admitted to psychiatry ward to being diagnosed with Bipolar in 2015. I know first hand what it feels like to be failed by the system. And I want to help change this!

I refuse to just merely give lip service to mental health, more funds needs to be put in place to support students in all FE & HEI's. I will promise that if elected on to the Welfare Committee I will make sure mental health support and education is available for all students.

How will I do this? I will ensure that all FE and HE institutions have a student mental health network in place and available, link them with the relevant organisations and secure more funding to help students who are in need of support, from counselling to peer support, this vision is achievable.

A year after my diagnosis I started a mental health society at Manchester. The society (Open Mind) actively helps to educate and support students. This was done by way of educational discussions on anxiety and depression, to holding 'Share your Story' evenings, to organising art therapy workshops. If elected I will constantly make sure all groups in the NUS are represented, especially liberation groups. So vote Saqib Mahmood #1 for Welfare Committee!

Raquel Marques
Middlesex Students' Union

Welfare Zone Committee

Hello,

My name is Raquel and I'm the Vice President of Middlesex Students' Union.

Ever since I was a teenager in Portugal I have really cared about mental health. I have seen people struggle with their mental health, I have struggled with my mental health, and I am acutely aware of the barriers that are so often in front of people when it comes to this problem.

At Middlesex we have made improving the mental health of our students a priority campaign for us this year. But we are also aware that the problem of Mental Health takes more than just one answer, it is a wicked problem that will take a hundred different solutions, and we are going to explore as many of them as we can. That means not just puppy rooms and awareness campaigns, but also not just focusing on the issue of wellbeing services waiting times and funding; instead it means focusing on all of these things, and so many more.

I believe that this is an approach that NUS needs to take.

One year we have a VP Welfare tells us that we have to focus on dealing with students who already face problems with their mental health, the next we have a VP Welfare who tells us that the most important thing is making sure that students don't face mental health problems in the first place.

Why not both?

As your representative on the Welfare Committee this is what I would push for – to make sure that NUS takes a comprehensive approach to mental health, to ensure that the work of the zone tackles the mental health crisis for what it is; a problem that cannot be solved with one solution.

Vote for me, Raquel Marques #1, to make this happen.

Rosie McKenna
Edge Hill Students' Union

Welfare Zone Committee

Hi! I'm Rosie McKenna, VP Welfare and former Women's Officer at Edge Hill SU. I'm running to be on zone committee because I am dedicated to tackling four things for my students, and students across the UK; health, hate, housing, and hardship. I'm sure I don't need to tell you of the mental health crisis on campus. We need more funding for services, and we need our institutions to take mental health seriously. Sex and relationships education is something close to my heart, but as an LGBT+ woman I have never received sex ed relevant to me. Elect me to work with the VP Welfare on mental health funding and provision, and to hold the VP to account in ensuring all sexual health work in the Welfare zone is LGBT+ inclusive. I've recently made EHSU a 3rd Party Hate Crime reporting centre, and have prioritised supporting liberation and faith groups on campus. Elect me, and I will work with the VP on tackling online harassment, and ensure that all students of faith are heard and feel welcome in our movement. I will work with the VP to ensure that work on minimum quality standards for housing is inclusive of disabled students and our accessibility needs. If it isn't accessible, it isn't quality. I lobbied MPs on cuts to NHS bursaries & maintenance grants, and I worked with local nurseries to provide discounted childcare for student parents through EHSU's NUS Local scheme. Elect me and I will support the VP Welfare's work on building a student finance system that actually works, with no gaps. I will support SUs get discounts for students where it matters most. I have won on health, hate, housing and hardship at EHSU, now elect me to Welfare zone committee to help win for all students.
#Welfairy

Sophia Moreau
Birkbeck College, University of London

Welfare Zone Committee
Standing for NEC place for this Zone Committee

Hi, I'm Sophia, Women's Officer at Birkbeck College, University of London. I'm all about intersectionality and much of my background is in Equality and Diversity advocacy, as my aim has always been to use any platform I have to alleviate the struggles of the underrepresented and marginalised. We come from diverse backgrounds as well as walks of life, and the NUS should be inclusive of this reality. The unique makeup of the national student body means that we have varying needs and circumstances. As I learned at Birkbeck, there is no 'typical student'. It's time educational institutions recognised this and used our collective ability to improve accessibility and welfare in education. I'd love to support other SU campaigns where possible and contribute to the work of the Welfare Committee. I'm always open to suggestions, so please feel free to talk to me!

Chuchu Nwagu
Roehampton Students' Union

Welfare Zone Committee

ChuChu... all aboard the welfare express, next destination welfare zone committee. Hi everyone, my names ChuChu Nwagu and I'm the VP Community and Welfare at Roehampton SU. Over the last 4 months I've been conducting a variety of first class activity for all students at Roehampton. From implementing RSU's biggest Black History Month, to campaigning to subsidise graduation costs. You'll find I'm dedicated, concise, and will never lose track of the end goal. My manifesto also includes:



- Prioritising the experience of interfaith students by enhancing the diversity of our faith advisers on campus
- Setting up a guarantor scheme for international and estranged students at Roehampton
- Enhance the disciplinary regulations to cover online abuse and harassment.

Not to worry though, I won't be derailed in prioritising the work of the welfare campaign both in NUS and in SU's across the whole of the UK. I'll be steaming ahead, making sure that Officers and students have input into everything discussed in the welfare zone.

I've loco-motivated every 16-25 year old (and everyone else) on my campus to work with trade unions in tackling sexual assault and we're on schedule to roll out a full bystanders scheme to ensure our students safety. And, by the end of this academic year our advice provision will include a hate crime reporting center.

So let's be sure you Arriva (trains Wales) at the right decision and (Edinburgh) Waverley at me around zones this week.

You don't need a rail replacement, just ChuChu into platform 1 on your ballot.

Jessica Okwuonu **De Montfort Student Union**

Welfare Zone Committee
Standing for NEC place for this Zone Committee

Hey, I'm Jessica, a 1st year Welfare and Community VP at De Montfort SU running for NEC 2nd & Committee place because addressing the welfare needs of students is more than providing a couple of puppy rooms and giving out free stress balls.

We need a strong welfare campaign because students are being hit hard by government cuts and pressures from society.

Tackling Mental Health is a HUGE priority on campuses but we can't tackle these problems without understanding the context in which they arise.

Sexual Harassment is a growing problem on campus and it's time the Welfare campaign started doing something about it. Because it's not enough for sabbs to be dealing with this on their own campus, we need a national campaign on this.

We are seeing a rise in Hate Crime on campus, with universities turning a blind eye to it. There are many on campus and in society that seek to divide us, but students should be united in creating the communities they want to see.

Housing standards continue to fall when dodgy landlords drive up rents but drive down living conditions. Student worries over finances with huge fees, no maintenance grants, high rents, meaning that students have to make decisions between eating and heating, books and bus fares.

The list is endless.

Our national union needs to be prioritising:

- Cultural competence within our MH services.
- Tackling hate and discrimination on campus
- Fairer rents and landlord standards

Elect me on NEC and I will:

- Ensure NUS has clear, relevant and tangible policies to shape the Mental Health agenda.
- Work with the VP Welfare to shape the priorities of the zone that supports our officers and positively impacts our students.

It's time the real needs of our students takes centre stage.

Ayo Olatunji **UCLU**

Welfare Zone Committee
Standing for NEC place for this Zone Committee

Hi my name is Ayo Olatunji, and I am the full-time Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Students' Officer at UCL. I have taken a year out of medicine to do this role with the intent of being vocal about pressing concerns that affected the student body in order to hold our institutions to account. Since then I have led campaigns on anti-racism and discrimination, holding events and workshops to educate on how these oppressive structure manifest and how to combat them.

We need a welfare zone that pushes the conversation on mental health beyond awareness to ensuring our mental health services are properly resourced, culturally competent and accessible. We need a welfare zone lobbying for housing to have fair rent, against dodgy landlords and for universities to stop pricing students out. We need a welfare zone that's not just informing everyone on what PREVENT is but rallying a movement for its repeal. We need a welfare zone that stands with doctors, teachers and other workers in their struggle for safer working conditions and better pay.

As we see tuition fees continue to rise, mental health provisions for different intersections of students decrease and the existence of the BME attainment gap – our campuses are brimming with students struggling to stay in college and university. More needs to be done by NUS to support officers and activists – toolkits will no longer solve the issue. NUS needs to be at the forefront of building a social movement with our collective values at the heart of it. Students can change the world, and we need to be supporting grassroots movements to do that.

Vote Ayo #1 Welfare NEC Place.

FE Candidates

Naila Mansouri **Dudley College Students' Union**

Welfare Zone Committee

My name is Naila Mansouri and i am standing for the FE place on the Welfare Committee.

I am currently in my second term as Welfare Officer at Dudley Students' Union, a role which i thoroughly enjoy and have developed as a person in so much over the last 18 months.

My track record includes organising a Welfare Fayre with over 30 external support services and organisations attending from the local community - over 1000 students took advantage of this opportunity and the feedback was incredible. I also organised for a number external speakers to attend the college and deliver on topics such as mental health, drug and alcohol misuse and effects, psychiatrist and psychologist perspectives on Mental Health support and positive body image. I also took a voluntary role with a group the SU support which offers a social club for our learners with learning disabilities and I've worked with staff to organise a feedback committee for students who have educational health care plans.

I am passionate about making life better for students and feel that i would offer a mature and level headed perspective on the Welfare Zone advocating strongly on behalf of FE ensuring our voice is heard and respected.

Please vote for me 1st place for FE place on the Welfare Committee. I will not let you down!



Chloe Nichol
Sheffield College Students Union

Welfare Zone Committee

The welfare zone is vital to further education students when, students can't afford to get to college or their food, when they are put on mile long waiting lists for their mental health, and sexual Harassment and bullying are rife. I want to be on this zone committee because I know what my students are going through and I want to help develop the zones priorities to ensure FE Is listen to and involved





