

Womens Conference Reports

Key Information

Each year, delegates at NUS Women's Conference elect the National Women's Officer to lead the Women's Campaign, along with a committee of elected volunteers. This document contains reports from elected representatives on work they have carried out this year against policy passed at Women's Conference 2016.

Women's Committee 2017-18

Hareem Ghani - **Women's Officer**

Sarah Lasoye - **NEC 2nd Place** (no report submitted)

Rowan Davis - **Trans Students' Rep** (no report submitted)

Amanie Mathurin - **International Students' Rep** (no report submitted)

Sophia Phillimore - **FE Students' Rep** (no report submitted)

Diko Blackings - **Postgraduate Students' Rep** (no report submitted)

Subira Ismail - **Black Students' Rep** (no report submitted)

Katherine Mellor - **Disabled Students' Rep** (no report submitted)

Elete Nelson-Fearon - **Lesbian Students' Rep** (no report submitted)

Megan Bastable - **Bi Students' Rep** (no report submitted)

Esther Dominy - **Open Place**

Laura Lunn-Bates - **Open Place**

Olayemi Opeseyitan - **Open Place** (no report submitted)

Fatima Diriye - **Open Place** (no report submitted)

National Women's Officer – Hareem Ghani

Since October, myself and the NUS Women's Campaign have been super busy attending events, running campaigns, and undertaking research projects.

Black Women and Self-Care

1. To mark Black History month this year, my NEC 2nd Place, Sarah Lasoye, released the [Self and Collective Care for Black Women](#) guide and workshop outline! She [piloted the workshop](#) during Black Students' Winter Conference at the end of November. In the second term, Sarah Lasoye announced a tour of universities and colleges who wanted to host self-care sessions for black women.
2. Moreover, we made a financial contribution to the UK's first [Black Girl Festival](#) organised by the wonderful Nicole Crensil and Paula Apkins - some of you may remember Nicole from our work last year when we released our [briefing on women, race and mental health](#).




Islamophobia and Prevent

November marked Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) and was jam-packed with activities around the country:

1. We released the [Muslim Students' Survey](#) to capture the experiences of Muslim students in colleges and universities around the UK. This was done in collaboration with FOSIS and the Black Students' Campaign.
2. We are aiming to produce a report by the end of March which will make a series of recommendations for Student Unions and NUS on how best to support Muslims students - particularly those who engage with political activism. Additionally, the NUS Women's Campaign is set to release briefings on the specific experiences of Muslim women.
3. We also ran a Gendered Islamophobia Tour to raise awareness of the experiences of Muslim women in Britain - we hosted events at King's College London, Middlesex, Cambridge, Manchester university. We will be hosting a second round of tours in Sheffield, Oxford, Edinburgh etc.
4. I organised a series of interviews with Muslim women activists which I am hoping to release in March.
5. We worked with the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS) to host the Muslim Women in Leadership conference, you can catch-up on how that event went [here](#).
6. During IAM, the Black Students' Campaign released an updated version of the [Prevent handbook](#) - the Women's Campaign wrote a section for this on how women are affected by Prevent.
7. I also co-chaired the kick-off Students not Suspects tour event at UCL during IAM alongside UCL BME Officer, Ayo Olatunji.
8. I also had a range of speaking engagements: speaking first at MEND's IAM launch event in Parliament, at an interfaith event at Sussex Students' Union, at UWE's IAM conference and delivered a short workshop on challenging Islamophobia at Durham.
9. I was also invited to sit on HEFCE's catalyst fund projects on interfaith work and challenging hate-crime. I attended all three, and sent my NEC 2nd Place Sarah Lasoye to speak at the HEFCE conference in February.
10. I am set to speak at Sussex on Faith and Feminism in April.

Women in Detention

November also saw Sarah Lasoye launch resources on women and detention on behalf of the campaign and [hosted an event with Northampton Students' Union](#) on the subject, alongside Northampton's Women's Officer, Bethel Tadesse and others.





Student-Staff Misconduct

In December, we launched a second piece of research, with The 1752 Group, exploring [staff-student misconduct](#). This is the first piece of research in the UK looking into the issue of staff-student harassment. NEC postgraduate reps, Sarah and Amelia, [wrote about](#) why postgraduate students are particularly at risk of abuse from staff. The research is currently being written up so [check back](#) for the report and recommendations - it is set to be released in late March, early April. Once the report is released I am hoping to organise a conference on policy recommendations.


Equality Challenge Unit

I met with Kelsey Paske from the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) about working with the Union Development Zone to produce workshops breaking down gender norms (e.g. toxic masculinity) as part of a broader strategy to tackle sexual harassment. We are scheduled to meet every Friday until the end of my term.

Domestic Violence in Further Education

1. This term, I have paired up with the Union Development Zone to produce another survey looking into the prevalence of domestic violence in Further Education:
2. I met with GirlGuiding for recommendations on how best to frame the questions (as well as other safeguarding concerns when reaching out to a younger audience.
3. I am scheduled to meet with Vanita Sundaram and Graham Towl as they will be helping with the questions. The survey will be disseminated via the UD Zone.
4. Once the survey closes, we are hoping to produce a report and then hold a consultations with FE colleges on what support they would like from the NUS.

Reproductive Justice + Abortion Rights

1. I met with officers from other liberation campaigns so they would contribute to our handbook on "Reproductive Justice 101"
 2. I supported DSC's activist training days - where Gina kindly delivered sessions on reproductive justice.
 3. I also met with the London-Irish Abortion Rights Campaign in drafting a strategy for engaging Irish nationals in the UK and encouraging them to vote in the referendum.
 4. I submitted a motion to our NEC to provide funds for students to travel to Ireland to vote in the referendum.
 5. I am hoping to update our legal briefing campaigning for pro-choice (and against pro-life groups) on campus.
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Women's History Month

I am still in the process of organising Women's History Month, but we have a number of projects placed including:

1. A photography based project that aims to photograph activists around the country to celebrate their hard work and life experiences;
2. Organise an event with London Young Labour Chair Amelia Horgan on women's contribution to the labour movement;
3. Work with Sarah Lasoye on compiling a series of videos on topics such as women and class struggle, #metoo, intersectionality etc.
4. I am hoping to work with Graham Towl to produce guidance for students on reporting tools and policies on harassment, survivor support, and effective educational measures.
5. I'm set to speak at a series of event e.g. Imkaan X Galdem Fundraiser Event, at Solihull College, Manchester Metropolitan University etc.
6. I'm attending the Women and Mosque Working Group meeting - as organised by the Muslim Council of Britain in March.

Any Other Business

1. In mid-October, I headed to Belfast to attend the #RallyForChoice demo.
 2. I hosted a "Feminism 101" Session at Edinburgh University.
 3. Sarah and I ended October, by accepting an invitation from the [National Union of Students in Norway](#) to deliver workshops on diversity in higher education.
 4. I attended the annual Muslim sabbs retreat which is a networking opportunity for all elected sabbs.
 5. I also attended an Intersectionality 101 panel at King's College London and at Cambridge University, where I spoke about how we can embed intersectionality into our activism better. ^{[L]_{SEP}}
 6. In November, I attended protests calling for justice for the Rohingya people, and the [Free Education Demo](#) (shout out to NCAFC for all their hard work on this). ^{[L]_{SEP}}
 7. I spoke about sexual harassment at several events including the #MeToo panel at King's College, the #StopHurtingUs event at Nottingham Trent and delivered a special keynote at Inside Government's Tackling Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education Conference.
 8. I attended the Palestine Demonstration in December.
 9. Some of you may have seen the [Times Higher Education article](#) I co-wrote with Graham Towl from Durham University. We agreed to write a series of papers on effective prevention and accountability for perpetrators.
 10. More recently, I did an interview with Pluto Press for their podcast Radicals in Conversation to talk about [sexual harassment in Higher Education](#) and broader society as a whole.
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11. I met with Sue Abbott and Charlotte Nielsen from UCU about the UCU Women's Committee and NUS Women's Campaign working together in the near future, particularly in relation to our work on staff-student misconduct and sexual harassment in the workplace.
 12. I attended Manchester Reclaim the Night.
 13. I attended a Labour roundtable event for the centenary of women's right to vote.
 14. I submitted motions to national conference on child-care.
 15. I met with NUS leadership re: internal safeguarding procedures and guidelines (focusing mainly on sexual harassment and rape).
 16. I attended the NUS-USI Women's Conference.
 17. I've arranged visits to meet with Women's Officers, Women's Committee members or sabbs e.g. Leicester, Central SU, Oxford etc.

Women's Committee (Open Place) – Esther Dominy

This year, I was interested in helping with the work the Women's Campaign has done around sexual violence and harassment and staff-student sexual misconduct. I've discussed this with Hareem, who has introduced me to key contacts at Durham University, and the plan is to create a set of three short guides on reporting procedures, survivor support and education/prevention. These guides should help provide a starting point for Sabbatical Officers and Women's Officers who are working on sexual violence and harassment, covering best practice and what they should campaign and lobby for.

Women's Committee (Open Place) – Laura Lunn-Bates

I've been working this year

- on supporting part time women's officers
- working on student women strike
- Written motions for nus women conference
- Working to organise stuff for NUS women's conference

