

FE students are worth fighting for

# VOTE RUBY HIRSCH

## #1 for Block of 15 (Further Education)

**S**tudents in FE are under attack from every direction. Cuts in our colleges and the scrapping of EMA will affect hundreds of thousands.

When university fees go up it is the students who are in college now who will be hit – and it is us who are hit hardest by the rise in youth unemployment. The coalition government is doing everything it can to wreck our future.

FE students have also been at the forefront of the resistance. Tens of thousands of us walked out to protest on November 24 and the other days of action – despite the repression we faced from police who would kettle us long into the winter nights and despite college managements threatening activists with exclusion or the loss of EMA.

By occupying in my college we were able to uphold the rights of students who walked out – everyone got to keep their EMA, and this made the next protests stronger. But with the support of NUS this could have been replicated in colleges across the country.

Surveys by the teaching unions show how much is still to be done in rooting out homophobic bullying from our schools and colleges, while racist stop-and-search policies have become a fact of life for black and Asian young people in many areas. FE students walked out to oppose the invasion of Iraq in 2003, and have come out in force to confront the EDL. Students need a union that will support them organising around these issues and more, no matter what obstacles are put in their way.

Elect me to the block of 15 and I will be an authentic voice for FE students on the NEC, striving for an NUS that puts its money where its mouth is and stands up for its members.



## Why we're supporting Ruby

“In a time of growing racism it’s important that we have representatives with a strong track record fighting the EDL and BNP. We need more people like Ruby in NUS and I am happy to give her my vote.”

**Raahim Khan**

VP Education & LGBT Officer,  
Harrow College

“Cuts and fees hit vulnerable students the hardest. As a Liberation activist, it’s great to see a young black woman, who has led an occupation and a walk out, standing for the block of 15. Ruby has my support, please give her your vote too!”

**Taiwo Ojo,**

Bradford College & NUS Black  
Students Committee FE  
Representative

- The fight continues – for a national demonstration in the first term

- United against austerity – support strikes against the cuts

- Defend the right to protest – an injury to one is an injury to all

- Liberation for all – stand up against bigotry and scapegoating

“As a liberation activist in FE I am happy to lend my support to Ruby. She is committed to fighting all forms of discrimination, vote for her.”

**Ben Braithwaite,**

Editorial Officer Leeds College of  
Art and Design SU

“College students are seeing their futures devastated by education cuts and mass unemployment among young people. We need someone who understands our struggle and why we need to fight – and that person is Ruby.”

**Jamil Keating,**

Xaverian College student,  
Manchester

“Ruby will be a voice for thousands of students who are having their right to education stolen from them. Having led walkouts and an occupation against the fees and EMA cuts shows passion and determination – and proves she is more than capable of putting across our demands. Vote Ruby #1 – she will not let us down.”

**Sheldon Ridley,**

Barnsley College student