



Re-elect

rachel

# Wenstone #1 for Block of 15

## SUPPORTING OUR ACTIVISTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FACISM & RACISM

The antiracism antifascism campaign is a fundamental of the student movement. We need a campaign that utilises all tactics, encompasses a breadth of politics, and that isn't owned by a one faction or another, **a united front against an ugly enemy**. A campaign that is NUS facilitated and student led.

History tells us that when people feel under pressure, fear and hate rises. With government austerity measures, job losses and rising living costs, the ugly face of racism threatens to undermine our vibrant multicultural society.

NUS needs to help unions vastly improve their educational activism, training our activists in the fundamental arguments so we are equipped to **run the EDL and the BNP off our streets**. I have already ensured 10 fully-funded places for sabbatical officers to visit Auschwitz Concentration camp, and I am developing an ARAF training day. No Platform is not just a slogan, it is **critical to our fight against hatred**. I will fight to preserve No Platform for fascists and racists.

NUS needs to lead a robust campaign against Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism and any form of discrimination.

## SUPPORTING EVERY STUDENTS' UNION

Being a student is an expensive business. Grants and maintenance loans don't even come close to covering the true cost of living, with some students facing an unacceptable £4,000 shortfall every year. We need a co-ordinated campaign with Students' Unions to pressure Government and University management to recognise the unacceptable deficit between the true cost of living and the money provided by the maintenance loan and grant.

**NUS must fight the effects of a market in education**. We must fight to save Aim Higher, and ensure universities are taking their responsibility to widen participation seriously. But without the crucial support of the EMA, for too many students university is becoming nothing more than a pipe dream. NUS must lead the fight to ensure further education is open to all. We must fight for a **nationally supported bursary scheme**.

We need to pressure University management to create meaningful progress agreements between FE and HE institutions, fighting against arbitrary minimum grades of entry and an elitist and inflexible education.

## SUPPORTING CURRENT & FUTURE STUDENTS

Students' Unions are under attack. Threatened by hardcore Conservative backbenchers and university management keen to ignore or silence our voice.

We need to ensure the **independence of our Unions**, both financially and politically.



We must end our reliance on our block grants, to ensure core services are maintained and not sacrificed to University cuts.

Every Students' Union is a charity, and we need to be using our charitable status to **fundraise and support ourselves**, with NUS providing practical support, training and best practice.

NUS need to give better individual support with tailored advice on how the cuts will affect our campus, our community and our region, so we can **build an effective local movement to fight back**.



### CONTACT ME

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Get in touch if you would like this manifesto in an alternative format.

### ABOUT ME

- Communications & Internal Affairs Officer at Leeds University Union
- Block of 15, NEC
- Antiracism Antifascism Co-convenor
- NUS Women's Committee Open Place elect (job share)