

"Surya is the bravest officer I have ever encountered. His passion and drive are relentless and he always puts students and the movement before himself. He has the politics, experience and policies to be the perfect NEC member. I am fully supporting him" - Graeme Kirkpatrick, Nus-Scotland Deputy President.



Record and disproportionate levels of youth unemployment in the UK means there has never been a better time for us to fight for our rights and demand that this generation is not allowed to become a lost generation. The Conservative government's austerity policies are threatening to dump a whole generation on the scrapheap with a higher percentage of young people not in education. This government is doing everything in their power to attack vulnerable citizens, destroy multiculturalism and deprive us from our basic rights. International learners studying here in the UK are being victimised by unfair immigration rules and used as cash cows. With racism still existing in society sometimes obvious, other times bubbling under the surface. The time has come to say enough is enough we cannot afford this government to be in power any longer.

Resources, sabbaticals, autonomy and funding of students associations across the country are under threat and patchy and we cannot rest until our Unions are strengthened and become appropriately funded, autonomous and sustainable. Unless we have strong local unions we cannot achieve the national goals of the NUS. This year I have tirelessly advocated and challenged our leadership to put both Higher Education and Further Education Unions at the heart of NUS action plans. Many unions and their officers often feel isolated from main stream NUS and are struggling to get national recognition because they're either not politically aligned or are part of a faction. I will continue my fight to protect equal opportunities for all unions regardless of their size, influence and connections with NUS Headquarters in London.

Local unions need to be more bold, inclusive and innovative in persuading their memberships to think out of the box to enhance equality, diversity and to celebrate multiculturalism. I will strive to make sure that NEC make radical steps to work beyond prioritising traditional students and champion the rights of liberation campaigns.

The scrapping of EMA and trebling of University fees is an absolute disgrace. Everyday students are being priced out of education. This simply cannot continue. Elect me and I will do everything in my power to tackle fees and get EMA re-instead. Most FE Unions rely solely on their president doing the bulk of the work. I will continue my fight for proper staff support and strong administrative structures to help the anti cuts and free education campaign succeed.

Institutions simply don't want strong, active, campaigning unions. They want them to sit in a corner and do as they're told. Without a supportive institution our Unions are destined to fail. NUS must make sure all institutions understand the importance and benefit of having strong and independent unions. I believe as a NEC we need to benchmark just what a strong college union looks like and start the long process to convince institutions just why that's so important. Unions should be run by its students not their institutions. Elect me and I will CHAMPION students lead engagement not just students engagement.

With Unity.

surya.prakashbhatta@nus-scotland.org.uk
0044-7503030832