

Maggie

for Block



Real student Real issues

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Putting disabled students' issues on the national agenda

With one in four students suffering from mental health problems, worrying levels of hate crime and the Disabled Students' Allowance under threat, it is time for us all to work with disabled student activists to tackle these issues.

The diversity of our movement is its strength, but we've got some way to go before the concerns of liberation groups become concerns for all.

Liberation group autonomy is essential, but too often this is an excuse for everyone else to ignore the concerns of our liberation students.

I promise to:

- » Work with the Disabled Students Campaign to provide accessibility training for all student officers across the UK.
- » Ensure that the NUS Hate Crime Survey is followed up with strong, co-ordinated action and guidance for students' unions.
- » Promote cross-Liberation networks to share tactics, building a strong, unified campaign on shared concerns.

Supporting student activism against racism and fascism

Now more than ever, anti-racism anti-fascism must remain a core part of the student movement. We need a campaign that empowers students to fight against racism and hate on their campuses. We need a campaign that unites the student movement around a common cause.

With huge youth unemployment and rising living costs, it is no surprise to see the far right seek to take advantage. We need to work together with community groups to offer a positive alternative to the fear and hate peddled by the EDL and BNP.

I promise to:

- » Ensure NUS provides resources to enable students' unions to educate on the threat posed by the far-right in the upcoming local, London and police commissioner elections, without falling foul of charities law.
- » Develop NUS' anti-racism anti-fascism training for officers.
- » Build on previous initiatives to take student officers on Holocaust education trips to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

For a movement that listens to real students

Students are struggling; struggling to pay their living costs, struggling without proper academic support. These are now everyday issues for real students like me, in both HE and FE - not just the concern of student officers.

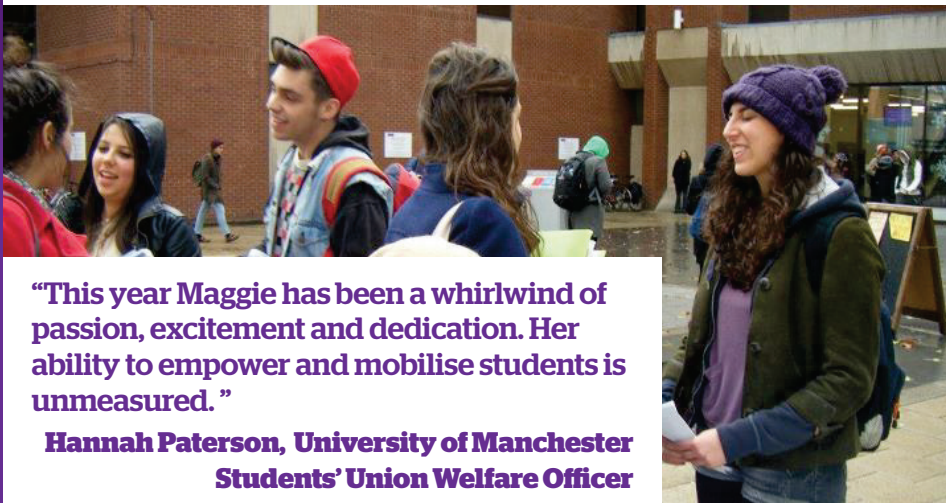
It's time NUS started engaging students on these everyday issues, not just officers and delegates. Too often, even an engaged student like me finds the politics, policies and structures confusing and off-putting.

Engagement is not just a buzzword or a tick-box exercise, it's the essence of NUS and students' unions. We should listen to our own advice: go out to listen and speak to students.

Only when NUS is able to reach out to the wider student body, putting real student issues first, can we hope to win the fight.

I promise to:

- » Get to know my allocated students' unions personally. I will make it my business to know and represent your union's interests.
- » Help build on the successful Student Activism conference to engage new student activists.
- » Listen and empower students to work together with NUS to make change.



"This year Maggie has been a whirlwind of passion, excitement and dedication. Her ability to empower and mobilise students is unmeasured."

Hannah Paterson, University of Manchester Students' Union Welfare Officer

A bit about Maggie Suissa...

Independent

Second year student at Uni of Manchester

Disabled Students Rep at UMSU

NUS Disabled Students Campaign activist

Tea drinker

If you have any questions, or would like this manifesto in an alternative format, please contact magsuissa@gmail.com.