

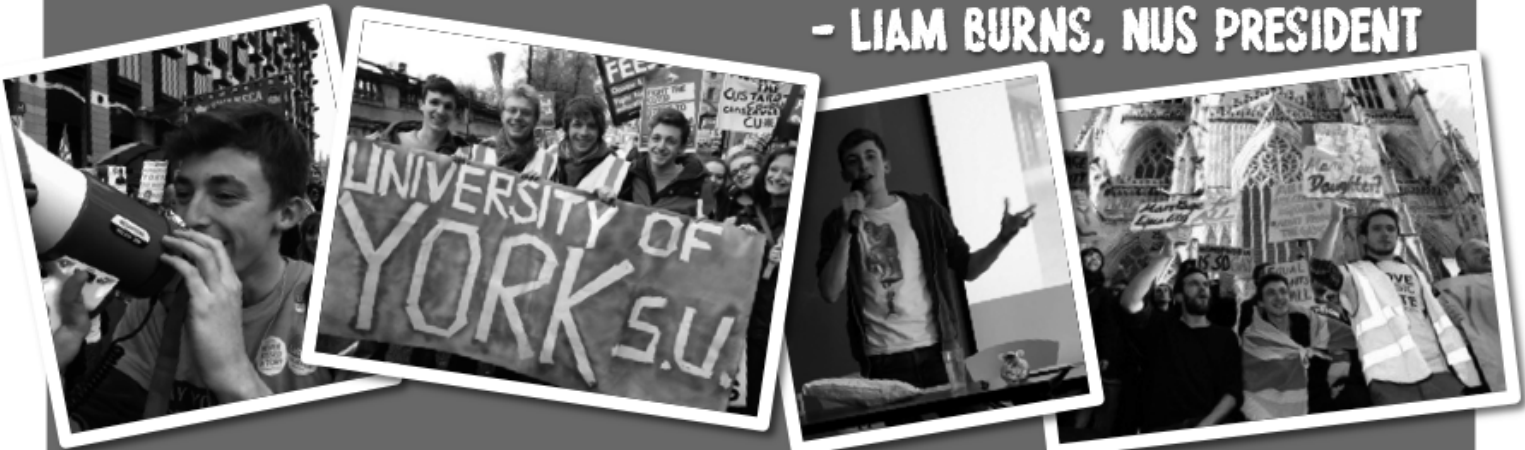
BEN DILKS

#1 FOR BLOCK OF FIFTEEN



"I'm voting Ben #1 because the NEC needs committed activists with a record of delivering for students and nobody fits the bill better"

- LIAM BURNS, NUS PRESIDENT



Elected officers do amazing work up and down the country, but we'll only win for students if we engage all of our members and harness their collective voice. As Campaigns Officer for my students' union, I've focussed on making our campaigns open, accessible and relevant, because the more students we reach the more we can achieve. It's that attitude and experience that I want to bring to the NEC and if you elect me I'll focus on three things: local action leading to national impact; creating an inclusive movement where everyone feels able to get involved; and making sure activists have their say on policy and campaigns all year round.

WINNING FOR STUDENTS NATIONALLY:

With youth unemployment at record levels, education spending slashed and FE fees denying people their right to an education, it's no surprise that thousands of students feel betrayed by this government. Not content with breaking promises, Cameron and Clegg now want to push thousands of students off the electoral register by introducing measures that will stop the automatic registering of students in halls.

- I'll work with the VP Soc & Cit on an NUS voter registration campaign so that students can't simply be ignored in elections.
- I'll ensure that NUS's focus goes beyond Westminster elections. We must also make sure students are listened to in local authority elections and elections to the devolved parliaments.

LIBERATION CENTRAL TO ALL WE DO:

From protesting to stop hate speakers on my campus to campaigning for equal marriage, it's liberation causes that inspired my involvement in the student movement from the very beginning.

- I'll support all measures brought forward to make NUS more representative of its membership, starting with a fully gender balanced National Conference.
- I'll be the first to defend NUS's No Platform policy and help students' unions stand up to fascists like Marine Le Pen.
- We must always protect the autonomy of our liberation groups, but that doesn't mean their work shouldn't extend further within the movement. It's crucial that we educate those who don't self-define as to why liberation matters.



CAMPAIGNS THAT WORK FOR YOU:

NUS runs lots of valuable campaigns, but to be more effective our campaigns must be inspired by input from the grassroots rather than led from the top down.

- Our ability to shape national campaigns shouldn't simply end when a motion passes at national conference. I'll make sure students on the ground are consulted every step of the way to ensure NUS is developing campaigns that work for you.
- NUS has plenty of great campaigning resources, but they can be tricky to find even for officers. I'll help students find the briefings and resources they need.



If you require this manifesto in any other format or have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch:

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Labour Students

It's important to be open and honest about your politics. I'm proud that members of Labour Students voted to select me to stand in this election because I share their values of equality and social justice, but I'm not afraid to disagree with my party and will always put student interests first.