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FOR VP WELFARE



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Student Support That Works For All

It's a scary time for student support services on our campuses. Whilst institutions push money into areas to try and boost their NSS scores and make their prospectuses pretty, they squeeze and cut money from front line services that help students in need. Counselling services closing, cuts to hardship funds, lack of investment in pastoral care; it all leaves students queuing for help, or they don't even bother trying at all. It's time to take action on providing our campuses with the support that we need.

I will:

- Commission a review of student support services in institutions across the UK that allows us to identify where the gaps and shortfalls are, how services compare with each other and what we demand as a minimum level of standard should be.
- Work with students' unions to push institutions in creating ways that identify students who need help and successfully reach them rather than waiting for them to come through the door.

General and Local Elections

We need a united General Election strategy that doesn't just focus on university fees but issues affecting all students' abilities to thrive in study – right across the UK and in both FE and HE. One that isn't a top down approach where NUS tells students' unions what to campaign on but allows you to fight on the issues important to you.

We cannot be a student movement that forgets about the local elections taking place - the government's drive towards Localism has had a significant impact on students in our towns and cities. Councillors have been elected on mandates full of anti-student rhetoric and they've been delivering; from implementing student housing quotas, poor health commissioning decisions and cuts to local transport services. It's time to hold them to account – we'll work hard this year and even harder next.

I will:

- Ensure student welfare issues remain a priority for the student movement in our General Election strategy and action. We'll be a movement that fights for maintenance that meets the cost of living, effective intervention in the private rented sector and suitable transport that gets students to their classes.
- Provide designated, targeted support for Local Elections ensuring students are mobilised to make their voices heard. Together we'll make sure students aren't vilified at the ballot box but supported in our right to live in a secure home, in a safe community with sufficient services.

Student welfare is of the utmost importance on our campuses and in our local communities.

I'm really proud of what we've achieved together this year. We've changed the narrative around what student welfare looks like and moved away from a top down approach to supporting local issues and action. But we've got more work to do, and I'm far from done yet.

I've created a manifesto based on what students and students' unions have told me are their priorities and what I think are the most relevant, realistic and challenging goals for us moving forward. I want us to work together to achieve real change for students and believe I can continue to lead a national movement that isn't just a fighting NUS, but a winning NUS.

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If you would like a copy of my manifesto in another format or have any questions please get in touch:



www.choosecolum.wordpress.com



Choose Colum for NUS VP Welfare



@ColumMcGuire



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Marching against NHS privatisation at the TUC demo

“ I’m supporting Colum for re-election as he has been an incredibly visible and active National Officer. Not only does he campaign tirelessly for student welfare needs but he constantly supports unions around the country either at the other end of the phone or jumping on a train. He understands the welfare needs of students today and knows how to tackle them head-on. ”

**Aicha Bahij,
Welfare Officer, Bradford Students’ Union**

Local Public Services

Together we have created a model this year that fights for local public services because we know the communities that we live in and their provision are just as vital to our lives as students as anything else. Too often these needs are deprioritised, undervalued or ignored. I’ve spent this year developing this project with you and now want to roll it out further, deeper and wider.

I will:

- Create a manifesto for partnership of Local Public Services that enables you to identify decision makers, create partnerships, take action against cuts and win on issues such as housing, health, crime, safety and transport in your local area.
- Lead an NUS that prioritises coming to support you on the local issues happening in your area.

“ Not only has Colum been a pleasure to work with he has demonstrated his ability to achieve wins for students. He has pushed the student movement to realise that welfare is vital and to create action and change around the issues that truly make or break a student’s experience on a local and national level. ”

**Hannah Paterson,
NUS Disabled Students’ Officer**



Signing the government charter on regulating pay day lenders

What I’ll Fight For...

- A national deposit registration database
- A newer, fresher, better reinstatement of EMA
- Monthly payments of student loans and student finance that reflects the cost of living
- Regulation to prohibit exploitative early lettings
- Fixed terms and conditions of student debt
- Protection of the Access to Learning fund and investment in other student hardship funds
- Campuses free from racism, Islamophobia and all discrimination
- A national transport subsidy for young people and students
- A UK wide ban on letting agents fees

What I’ll Deliver...

- Funding for an extensive, strong and well-resourced mental health project supporting you to deliver campaigns that make change on your campuses
- A UK wide project that collates data from advice services to identify national trends and support local action for change
- An Accommodation Costs Survey that specifically looks at the relationship to levels of student financial support
- A UK wide Tenant Activist Programme – bringing the skills you want to empower tenants and change your local housing market to your town
- A project to create Faith and Belief groups in Further Education
- A national initiative to help students source relevant and up to date information on sexual health services in their area.



#WelfareWin - My Record

- A pilot programme of sex and relationships education in colleges across the UK
- An extensive research project on student housing and the private rented sector
- An inquiry into unfair and unfit debt practices in institutions through the Office for Fair Trading
- Funding for a brand new project on students and alcohol on your campuses
- A Student Mental Health Summit bringing together students, students’ unions, colleges, universities and sector experts for the first time to talk about steps forward
- A government review of the private rented sector shaped and influenced by us
- Over 60 students’ unions and institutions signed up to the Time to Change pledge
- Government commitment to introduce Sharia compliant loans
- Scrapping of 24+ Learner Loans for apprentices