

# “I WANT TO SEE AN NUS THAT STANDS FOR SOMETHING, THAT ISN'T JUST AGAINST SOMETHING.”

I want to see an NUS that stands for something, that isn't just against something. An education system that delivers for society, not just for business. A movement where students' unions are leading from the front, and aren't just an afterthought.

In my time as Vice President Further Education, I am so proud of what I've seen students' unions do and achieve - uniting the movement to win for students from winning £41m for student parents to fighting FE fees. But I'm proudest of how far we've come over the last few years in overcoming the artificial divides between different types of students, building a vision that delivers for everyone, no matter where or how they study.

## WINNING THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR STUDENTS

Between now and 2016, there are key moments of power to win for students. From the General Election to the Scottish Independence Referendum and Council elections in between - We can't just deliver the same types of election campaigns we always do. I know that elections are unique locally, and the issues at the ballot box in Cardiff are not the same as those in Coatbridge. I won't just mobilise students to vote in isolation, but ensure entire communities vote for education.

As NUS president I'll unite a movement through the power of students' unions, but to do that we need to work harder to represent and support students we haven't reached before; adults, informal learners, prisoners and apprentices. I believe our work always has to be of and through students' unions, but we have to work harder to reach those unions often can't.

I know that real power in the UK lies in the hands of the public, and we can't always win on our own - we need to win the argument with the public. In local and national elections - I won't just run "vote for students" campaigns - I will mobilise communities to vote for education, because I'm serious about the power of education to transform lives and build a better society.

### I WILL:

- Ensure that we are finally supporting students' unions in local council elections - linking together HE and FE unions regionally to win on the issues that matter to your students.
- Commit resource to put the voice of students in Scotland front and centre of the upcoming independence referendum and winning the 2014 and 2016 Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament elections.
- Lead the fight for sustainable funding of education - empowering every students' union to have the right strategy for them.

## EMPLOYMENT

For years, NUS has been too shy to face up to the problem of unemployment, letting down hundreds of thousands of our members in the process. Whether it's young people, students or graduates, we need a real strategy for delivering on employment in the UK. From campaigning to ensure that everyone has access to high quality apprenticeship programs that lead to jobs, not the job centre, to ensuring our own students' unions can lobby institutions and local communities to create jobs for students: we have a responsibility to have actual answers not meaningless rhetoric.

The education system in the UK has been changed from one which teaches people to one which provides for our labour market. Education and work will always be intrinsically linked if we believe that education moves our society forward, but I want to see industry that is led by education, rather than the other way around.

### AS NUS PRESIDENT, I WILL:

- Empower students' unions across the UK to create employment opportunities, working locally with institutions, small business and trades unions.
- Train student leaders to secure employment through procurement, in their unions, institutions and communities
- Make sure we're not just creating internships, placements and apprenticeships, but securing work for local people too.
- Secure funding to finally crack volunteering in FE colleges - lets stop pretending that transplanting HE models for clubs and societies will ever reach the students the could benefit most.



**TONI PEARCE**  
#1  
NATIONAL  
PRESIDENT

## EDUCATION: WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

For too long, our movement has been a battlefield. FE vs HE, universities vs colleges, students vs communities, the list goes on. Before we can win for students we have to work out what our education could, and should be.

The transformative power of education can't be boiled down to a fight about fees. It isn't simply the cost of education that screws us over, it's the barriers that exist in an elitist system of education. We need to start looking at the real barriers, and the people we should speak to are those who aren't lucky enough to make it into our membership. Millions of young people never get the opportunity to do an apprenticeship in the same way that

**"I'LL BE VOTING FOR TONI BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS KEEPS HER FOCUS ON ACTUALLY MAKING STUDENTS' LIVES BETTER. FROM THE FIRST DAY I MET HER, SHE HAS KEPT THIS PASSION WHICH NEVER SEEMS TO LEAVE HER, NO MATTER WHAT SHE IS DOING. NUS NEEDS LEADERS WHO DON'T JUST RAIL AGAINST THE SYSTEM WE HAVE, BUT FIGHT FOR SOMETHING BETTER, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT TONI DOES."**

**ARCHIE DALLAS – DURHAM STUDENTS' UNION**

millions more never go to uni – under my leadership, NUS will be there to challenge the barriers we've forgotten about.

We need to think about our education system from the perspective of those who are most often at the sharp end of the current system, those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. I'll work with our Liberation campaigns to make sure that we finally put those people first when we think about how

our education should look, as well as how it's funded.

### I WILL CAMPAIGN FOR:

- An Information, Advice and Guidance service for all ages
- A single central admissions and applications system for all education
- A student financial support system that actually works for students, I won't campaign to bring back EMA - I'll deliver something better.



**"I'M BACKING TONI FOR NUS PRESIDENT BECAUSE SHE IS ONE OF THE MOST INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN IN THE STUDENT MOVEMENT RIGHT NOW. SHE HAS CAMPAIGNED FOR A BETTER, FAIRER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS, FOR LIBERATION AND FOR STUDENT CARERS. THIS IS THE KIND OF PERSON I WANT TO SEE LEAD NUS IN THE COMING YEAR."**

**KELLY MARIE PARRY**

**EDINBURGH COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

## BUILDING A MOVEMENT

I know we can only win through students' unions. For too long, we've neglected the people who run our clubs and societies and volunteer in our students' unions. We must engage them now and develop them into the activists of tomorrow who will win on our campuses and put education at the heart of the 2015 election. I'll get NUS back in students' unions, training the people who keep our unions running to be leaders and activists, winning for our students every day.

I know that often unions know best, and NUS needs to recognise that. Whether it's Edinburgh College running masterclasses on getting through mergers, or Oxford Brookes fighting rent rises, the answer isn't always in NUS HQ.

### I WILL:

- Provide funding and support for students' unions to run regional masterclasses
- Deliver a new activist development program that reaches more students than ever before - supporting them to win on the issues that matter at a local level.
- Re-establish our links with trades unions, not just "shoulder to shoulder" clichés, but real campaigns that change the lives of workers as well as students.

## MY RECORD

- Campaigning on and winning £41m for student parents through Care to Learn
- Winning £50m in bursaries for adult FE student support
- Fighting to ensure Access to HE fees are written off
- Saving student governors in colleges
- Developing and doubling sales of the Apprentice Extra card, engaging with apprentices for the first time
- Engaging with students in prisons through NUS for the first time with the Prisoners Education Trust
- £60m extra funding into FE 16-19 bursaries
- Delivering FE leadership training in Wales for the first time
- First ever NUS research into apprentice experience
- Extension of Learner Satisfaction Survey back to 6th forms
- Developing "sabbatical apprentice" model

**"IT HAS BEEN AN HONOUR TO WORK WITH TONI, AND I CAN'T WAIT TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH HER NEXT YEAR. SHE HAS CHALLENGED MY OWN PRECONCEPTIONS OF WHAT EDUCATION CAN BE AND NEVER STOPS WORKING TO CHALLENGE NOT JUST THE SECTOR BUT OUR OWN MOVEMENT. TONI HAS THE VISION AND DRIVE THAT MAKES ME ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN SHE IS THE ONLY PERSON TO LEAD NUS."**

**RACHEL WENSTONE – NUS VICE PRESIDENT (HIGHER EDUCATION)**