

Zarah Sultana

I was in the first lot of students to be charged 9000 tuition fees.

Two years before that, I was in the group of students for whom EMA was slowly phased out.

I guess you can call us the unlucky generation.

I then joined the University of Birmingham, known for its recent crackdown of student activism. The university suspended students after they were arrested simply for refusing to give the police their names.

Is this the kind of education system we want? One that fails students on all levels whether its high fees, the increasing privatisation, the cuts made to departments not seen as important as others whilst those at the top enjoy high increases to their wages? A system that refuses to acknowledge a diversity of opinion? A system that shuts down any form of dissent by smacking injunctions and suspensions left, right and centre? A system that allows the govt to spy on Muslim students because being Muslim automatically means that they are vulnerable to becoming terrorists? A system that has made it so difficult for kids from where I come from - one of the most economically deprived areas in the UK - from achieving their true potential?

I stood at the podium a year ago at NUS conference highlighting the importance of fighting anti-racism and anti-fascism in a political climate which has seen frightening rises in levels of Islamophobia and anti-semitism. This is still just as important today.

Vote for me and you're voting for a person who will stand up for the students who feel that NUS is inclusive, that the NUS doesn't care about the welfare of students, that the NUS will not challenge the massive changes affecting all FE and HE students.

My experience:

- **Black Students Campaign Committee 2013-14**
- **NUS BSC Black Student of the Year 2013**
- **Vice President of Birmingham Ethnic Minorities Association 2013-14**
- **President of Kashmir Awareness Society 2013-14**
Vice President of Students for Justice in Palestine 2013-14
- **Active campaigner with Muslimah Pride 2013-Present**