



KEEP TONI AND CARRY ON

“Toni is a natural leader and a campaigner at heart with a firm grasp of the relevant issues affecting FE students and the FE student unions across the country. Last year as VP Further Education, she toured around the country and visited many FE unions including ours. She talked and listened to the students at ground-level and by that demonstrated that she is willing to lead by an example. Toni has my support. FE students deserve to be placed at the front of the agenda of decision making bodies and Toni is the right person for that job.”

*Mouris Bashir,
Edinburgh's Telford College.*

Over 1.4 million young people in the UK are unemployed, with a higher percentage of young people not in education or training, and enrollment rates at all levels of education are dropping off for the first time. We are witnessing an entire generation of young people not just being forgotten by their government, but being completely abandoned. Successive governments have attempted to pull the rug from under young people, and maybe they've almost been successful. But I absolutely refuse to sit back and accept it.

This year we've begun the fight to protect our students, from Care to Learn and college funding in Scotland to stop and search and student governors. And now more than ever, we have to refocus our priorities onto those who are most vulnerable in our movement.

You elected me to be your Vice President Further Education last year because I was ready to stand up and fight the government's vicious attacks on FE. The government hasn't stopped attacking, and I'm not prepared to stop fighting.

Keep Toni and Carry On.

“Toni is a passionate individual who really fights for the rights of FE and the students that form a part of it. Whether it's a campaign, a debate or representing our views, we can always count on her to do a fantastic job. I couldn't see FE being represented as well as Toni does it.”

*Zak Thompson,
Burton and South Derbyshire College.*

EDUCATION FUNDING

The government wants to introduce fees and loans into adult further education. NUS must be on the front line to defend the proper funding of education and student support. We know that education is an investment, and I believe everyone should be entitled to Further Education free of charge.

This year we've:

- **Saved** Care to Learn funding, supporting thousands of young parents to stay in education.
- **Saved** funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages provision.
- **Saved** enrichment provision in local colleges with the “Fair Necessities” campaign.

Keep Toni and we'll:

- Fight for free Further Education for all.
- Fight against fees and loans in Further Education.
- Fight against hidden course costs.

STUDENT VOICE

We know the best education system is one that students have ownership of, and that's what we should be fighting for.

This year we:

- **Saved** student governors, making sure students continue to have a say at the highest level.
- Supported student governors to make a difference locally with the Student Governor Support Programme.
- Helped students hold their colleges to account with a new model learner involvement strategy.
- Trained more student leaders than ever before at FE Leadership.

Re-elect me and together we'll:

- Put students in control of their education with effective and democratic class rep structures.
- Allow students to make more informed choices by making the Learner Satisfaction Survey compulsory for all FE providers.
- Help students scrutinize their providers, by rolling out the Student Governor Support Programme throughout the UK.
- Make the Further Education system more accountable by introducing an Independent Complaints Authority for FE.

NATIONS & LIBERATION

This year, I've worked closely with officers from the Nations and Liberation campaigns to:

- **Save** college funding in Scotland.
- Train officers at the first ever FE Leadership in Wales.
- Fight to save EMA in Northern Ireland.
- Make liberation a core part of the FE student movement with the first ever FE specific Liberation, Equality and Diversity event.
- Get the best possible deal for students by supporting officers with a UK wide mergers toolkit.
- Keep thousands of young parents in education by saving Care to Learn funding.
- increased student support funding in FE colleges in Northern Ireland

THE LOST GENERATION

Though NUS' priorities must be grounded in fighting for a better education for all, we have to remember why we do this; we value education because it makes us tolerant, confident and successful. Education is the reason we have the society we do, and the reason we strive to make it better. Education overcomes inequality and oppression, and saves and transforms peoples' lives. But while education is the basis of our work, and rightly so, a better education system alone will not pull young people through the fight that they have ahead of them. The reintroduction of EMA would make an amazing difference, but it won't help these people get jobs. The scrapping of tuition fees might open the doors to Higher Education for everyone, but it won't change the fact that this generation is the first in history to be worse off than their parents. NUS must move forward with our narrative of a fair, high quality tertiary education system for all, based on parity of esteem between academic and vocational, supported by genuinely independent information advice and guidance and properly funded by the state. But we must also become more comfortable in campaigning for economic growth plans that give people opportunities to work, a National Health System that supports and provides for all its users, including our members, and a government, justice system and media that involves, celebrates and accepts young people instead of demonizing them.

"I am supporting Toni Pearce as she is a great leader and is extremely passionate about FE.

She has supported me throughout my role as president and has lead me in the right direction when I have found things tough.

She really is a credit to NUS and without her passion and drive, events and campaigns would seem dull and mundane."

*Penny Birch,
Leeds City College.*

**RE-ELECT
TONI PEARCE
#1 FOR VP FE**

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If you require this manifesto in a different format, please contact me.