

VOTE AL HUSSEIN



#1 FOR Vice President (Higher Education)

At the time of writing this manifesto, a section of the National Campaign Against Fees & Cuts (NCAFC) has decided to stand a candidate against the NUS Black Students' Officer, Kanja Sesay, who is running for NUS President. He is one of the most high profile student leaders in Britain today and the only person on the left anti-cuts slate that they have decided to stand against.

Against a backdrop of the Tories' assault on living standards, the demonisation of Black communities has increased in a crude attempt to distract from the real causes of the economic crisis. As a National Officer Kanja has led the way in fighting against fees & cuts and taking on all forms of racism.

It concerns me that in targeting Kanja, by only standing against him for President, a section of the left do not seem to be giving sufficient weight to ensuring that the specific concerns of Black students are properly represented amongst the movements we need to build against the Tory attacks. I am particularly concerned given that a few months ago the same organisation organised an all white press conference ahead of the 9 November national demonstration despite the fact that the NUS Black Students' Campaign asked for a representative.

The Tories' attacks will have a disproportionate impact upon Black people, underlining the importance of Black representation in our campaigns. Therefore, to strengthen the voices of Black students within NUS I've decided to put my name forward for NUS VP Higher Education.

Al Hussein Abutaleb
NUS Black Students' Committee
Sheffield University Union Black Students' Councillor

Fight cuts and inequality Education for the 99%

The Tories have unleashed the biggest assault on ordinary people for generations – they want us to pay for their crisis.

Our movement faces many challenges: soaring tuition fees, rising student debt, education cuts, course closures and privatisation. Fighting back against these unprecedented attacks must be the absolute top priority of the NUS leadership. We need NUS on the frontline defending students – not the sidelines.

I believe that fighting the cuts

and fighting inequality go hand in hand. We should be clear that when the Tories treble tuition fees they are attacking women who will take decades longer than their male peers to repay their debts because of the gender pay gap. When the government scrap the EMA – which has got thousands of young Black people into education – they are attacking Black students. When they cut back on vital university support services they are attacking disabled students. And when the government fails to provide universal living grants for all they are attacking LGBT students that

are estranged from their parents.

Now is not the time to give up and accept defeat. We must fight for education and equality.

I stand for —

- A national demo against all cuts, fees and privatisation
- Bring back the EMA
- Support staff and lecturers – fight job cuts, defend pensions, support strikes
- Investment in free education and public services – for living grants for all students

no to cuts and racist scapegoating

We are one society, many cultures!

In order to minimise rising anger to the Tories' economic policies of slash and burn, politicians are seeking to divide and rule the 99% by scapegoating and blaming Black people, Muslims, immigrants and asylum seekers for the economic crisis caused by the bankers and the government's savage 'austerity' policies.

These attempts to whip up racism are a classic Tory tactic of mass distraction — but we will not be fooled.

Tory Prime Minister David Cameron has been leading the charge with high profile attacks on multiculturalism and immigration. The racist and fascist English Defence League have continued to organise violent, anti-Muslim 'protests'. Racism is rife in the media, in sport, in popular culture and in our communities. Racism is also a scourge on our campuses — from disgusting anti-Semitic Nazi drinking games to lecturers being asked to spy on Muslim students.

I will —

- Bring back the NUS Anti-racism & Anti-fascism conference — make challenging bigotry a priority
- Work with Unite Against Fascism, Love Music Hate Racism and One Society Many Cultures to challenge racism and the far right
- Challenge all forms of racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism
- Say no to racist scapegoating — blame the bankers not the Burka

a mass campaign against fees & cuts for the most diverse movement possible

The anti-cuts movement and our national union must represent all groups most affected by the Tories' austerity agenda. Women, Black, LGBT, international and disabled students are at the sharp end of the government's onslaught on education and must play a leading role in the student fightback. Too often groups claim to represent the most oppressed but do nothing to involve them in positions of leadership.

I am proud to be involved in the Black Students' Campaign — a campaign that has continually placed itself in the centre of the alliances necessary to campaign against all fees and cuts. When the NUS leadership refused to organise a national demo this year, the Black Students' Campaign fully supported the 9 November demonstration and played an active role in organising it.

I will —

- Involve the Liberation Campaigns in all NUS campaigns against fees and cuts and ensure that any platforms are always representative of the full diversity of the student movement
- Always support the right of autonomous and fully-funded Liberation Campaigns

Fund education not war DROP CUTS NOT BOMBS!

The government is cutting billions of pounds from education at the same time as it is spending billions of pounds on war and nuclear weapons: Britain has spent more than £20 billion on the wars against Iraq and Afghanistan alone and the cost of renewing Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system, has risen to £100 billion. Contrast this to how much it would cost to abolish tuition fees: only £2bn per year according to

the government's own figures.

The wars on Afghanistan and Iraq have not only been a waste of money, but a waste of lives. One million dead in Iraq and hundreds of thousands killed in Afghanistan. Withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, scrapping nuclear weapons and refraining from launching new wars in the Middle East would save billions that could be used to fund education and

other public services facing the axe. NUS should work with the Stop the War Coalition and the Student Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to campaign for the British government to change its twisted spending priorities and fund education not war, scrap Trident and scrap tuition fees. Our national union should support the Palestinians' right to education and campaign against the siege on Gaza.

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