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FOR VP WELFARE



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A New Vision for Welfare Representation ●●●●●

I'll be making the case as to why all Students' Unions need proper welfare representation that's put at the heart of the Union. One size doesn't fit all and that there are different challenges between HE and FE, England and the Nations, but I want to roll out the spirit of **effective and tangible welfare representation** across the UK, whatever that looks like to the individual Union.

I will lead a whole new army of welfare officers. I'll break down the misconceptions of what a welfare officer should do, help officers get the right resource & support in their own Unions and teach them how to demand the best for student welfare; turning them from **an extension to services into political leaders**.

Together we'll be ensuring that institutions understand that Students' Unions **MUST** be involved in the **delivery of welfare services and have ownership** where possible. We won't accept service cuts, the saving of money at the expense of a student's wellbeing and leaving them self-run for sake of convenience

“ As a President in my first term from a small union, Colum's messages of support and guidance have been invaluable to me. Knowing that someone with such experience, passion and expertise is so willing to support someone he's only met a couple of times is absolutely fantastic – he's perfect for the job of NUS VP Welfare. ”

Amy Dawson, President, Bath Spa University Students' Union

●●●●● A New Vision for Student Housing

I will commission **research that allows us to fully understand the landscape of student housing**; in both HE and FE, across the Nations and for those that don't fit into the typical student housing market.

We must continue to fight discriminatory housing policies on students. With a different climate all over the UK at present we have to join forces and learn from each other to **reverse quotas on student housing and block further progression** of the anti-student agenda.

I will **narrow the gap between Students' Unions on housing** work. I will reach out to Unions that don't have strong knowledge, skills or resource on housing and provide them with personalised training to allow them to advance. We'll make those who 'do' housing better and get those who don't on the map.



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

The student movement is somewhat guilty of talking too much about fees; about getting students into the system. We have to put welfare at the forefront in order to open up education and lead our members through their educational studies to academic success and personal development.

That's the goal.

At a time when we're seeing mass cuts to education it's no surprise that student welfare is being squeezed and pinched. Yet when our members are under more strain than ever, it's their welfare that must be prioritised.

If students are to win at the next General Election we must deliver on demonstrating the public good of education. If we're to do that, we absolutely must start creating an impact in our local communities. Be that fighting for the best from our Local Authorities, showcasing the excellent work our members do, opening up our campuses for the whole community or working in partnership to tackle the issues faced by our members and other residents.

In the current climate it's not enough for NUS to be working in isolation whilst our local Unions get on with something else. I will lead a Welfare Zone that prioritises membership engagement; one that provides support when you need it and allows us all to work together to achieve success for the students of today and tomorrow.

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



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Choose Colum for NUS VP Welfare



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● ● ● ● ● A New Vision for Healthcare

I'll be working with Students' Unions to win seats on relevant health bodies around the UK using our influence to **protect vital services that affect young people and other students.**

I will lead the way on how **we campaign effectively on health provision** – using consultation with Students' Unions to create a map tracking health service provision for students all over the UK. This will allow us to see where the gaps are and what we need to fight for.

I'll create strong working relationships with health organisations across the UK to put the student movement at the forefront of **challenging a restrictive approach to people's health rights.**



● ● ● ● ● A New Vision for Student Finance

I will lead a two pronged approach for getting money into students' pockets; one that **pressures the government to adequately provide** in the student finance system upon entry and **lobbies local institutions** to start centrally providing money for their own students during their course of study. My focus will be one that ensures that **money reaches those that need it the most.**

“ As a fellow welfare officer in the same city, he has been a first port of call on issues both affecting my students directly and across the whole city. His experience has shown his dedication and he has demonstrated his constant dialogue with the students he represents whilst never shying away from topics that could prove contentious.

His enthusiasm to continuously collaborate has meant that not only is my job easier but the welfare of all students in Canterbury is looked after in the best way possible! ”

Jo Bartson-Umulisa, Vice President (Welfare & Education), Canterbury Christ Church Students' Union.

“ Despite Colum being from a HE background in welfare, he has a strong and developing knowledge of FE welfare issues and his dedication continues across both sectors. I will be voting Colum number 1 for Vice President (Welfare) this year, knowing that he will boost welfare representation across HE and FE. ”

Rhiannon Durrans, President of York College Students' Union & NUS Welfare Zone committee

My Experience

- NUS National Executive Council '12-present
- Vice-President (Welfare), Kent Union '11-present
- Speaker & Trainer, Unipol Housing '11-present
- NUS welfare zone committee '11-present
- Trustee, Brook (Sexual Health Charity) '11-present
- NUS LGBT steering committee '10-present
- NUS Delegate '09-present

My Record

- Successfully blocked Article 4 Direction from passing in Canterbury, the only city to reject it to date.
- Zero tolerance to sexual harassment & discrimination implemented in Kent Union nightclub with over 200 security & staff trained so far, now being rolled out across campus.
- Lobbied University to contribute to funding for students in financial hardship with an extra £30,000 so far this year.
- An extra 33 hours per week of sexual health services at our campus medical centre and won a seat on the local commissioning consultation group under new NHS reforms.
- Created a 3-year Liberation Strategy in order to put liberation at the heart of my Union in a proactive manner.
- Delivering a Housing Accreditation Scheme for all students (both HE & FE) studying in Canterbury.



“ Colum has been really supportive to me in helping me develop our Welfare Department at GCUSA. It's great to see a candidate recognising and helping the nations ”

Sinead Wylie, Vice President (Wellbeing), Glasgow Caledonian Students' Association