**Jess Levy for Vice President Union Development**

*Being a part of NUS is not something that our members back on their campuses care about. But that’s because we don’t give them any reason to do so. I want to work with you to change this.*

*Student Unions, Guilds and Student Associations have the ability to change lives. Mine did: it gave opportunities to help me realise what I could achieve and now as the Representation and Resources Officer of my Union I am making a difference. The Union Development zone has the ability to champion work that unions do everyday and more importantly help push it forward.*

*Union development’s focus should be what it says on the tin. Developing unions in our movement, giving officers and students the support they need and it doesn’t matter whether that is in FE or HE. But instead NUS seem to be focusing all their attention on internal issues.*

*I will be the Vice President of Union Development that puts the Zone in our Unions and not just on your Twitter feed; Providing resources on issues that you actually care about, supporting student journalists, supporting RAG volunteers and supporting sports captains. I will be the Vice President that will ensure that this union goes from strength to strength, giving our members a NUS that they are proud to be a part of.*

*-Jess Levy*

‘**Jess is just the absolute best.** I’ve known Jess for a while and I have a lot of faith in her to drive the changes that NUS and its membership need. As the President of an SU that has failed to see the benefit of an NUS membership in recent years, I genuinely believe that Jess will solve the problems facing NUS and will stay true to herself and what she believes in.’

-Meike Imberg – President, Greenwich SU

‘**Jess will be the VP UD who can make sports accessible on campus.** When I was a student at UWL playing sport, I was always struck by how hard sport was to be a part of for so many people. I know that Jess is the person to fix that - with real solutions for real problems. No more tinkering, no more pie in the sky - just actual fixes for the issues students face in accessing sport.’

-Kat Hackshaw, VP Activities, UWLSU

**A space for Further Education students**

For so many unions across the country, the number one issue right now is space. From spaces on their own campus, to a space in our national union, so much of our FE membership is crying out for a dedicated space.

That is why I will launch a campaign to help Students’ Unions get more space on campus, and will also be fighting for the National Society of Apprentices to have a proper voice in NUS. From buildings to votes, everyone deserves a space, and I will be the Vice President Union Development that makes this happen.

**Helping SU officers with their next steps**

At Students’ Unions across the country, there are sabbatical officers who are about to finish their terms in office and are facing the question of what it is that they are going to do next. These are some of the most talented people in our movement – they are intelligent leaders with impressive CVs and exciting futures ahead of them, and NUS has a role to play in helping them move on to their next step.

That is why I am pledging that **as your Vice President Union Development I will launch the NUS graduate scheme and internship** to take on ex-sabbatical officers, to train them to translate their leadership skills into management skills, and keep our diverse talented pool of officers in the student movement. I genuinely believe that this will be a great step towards making Union senior management teams less pale, less stale and less male.

**The State of our Union**

We know that Students’ Unions change lives. For so many students they are the thing that kept them in college or university, made their learning accessible and allowed them to access an education that was designed by and for them. We know that for so many students their SU is the only thing that is fighting for them in a world that can so often seem to be against them.

That is why, as your Vice President Union Development, I will seek to develop the already successful #LoveSUs campaign, which I will do by **launching an annual State of the Union report, highlighting the impact of Students’ Unions and NUS on the education sector.** This report will be an annual opportunity to talk to the rest of the sector about the importance

of student representation and the power of Students’ Unions - letting everyone else in on the secret that we already know, that SUs are amongst the most important organisations in the country.

**Not all students are based on a campus or at a college**

At institutions across the UK there are hundreds of thousands of placement students who barely ever step foot on campuses. These are our future nurses, doctors, engineers, teachers and many others who face issues and barriers that are far different from their campus-based peers, and who are so often misunderstood by Students’ Unions and their National Union.

That is why **I will reach out to these students and work in partnership with the Trades Union Congress to develop a representative body for placement students**, to push nationally for new legislation on rights and conditions for placement students, and to help SUs on the ground better understand how to represent placement students.

**Making institutions accountable for sexual harassment**

This year has seen the world finally waking up to the serious issue of workplace sexual harassment. Beginning in Hollywood, the #MeToo campaign has made its way through so many different sectors with so many shocking revelations, and the HE Sector is not exempt from this.

We know that institutions across the UK have terrible sexual harassment policies, and we also know that universities will not improve things without serious pressure and their reputation being put in danger. That is why **as your VP Union Development I will work with with your Vice President Welfare and your Women’s Officer to launch a national ranking of universities based on the effectiveness of their sexual harassment policies** and response structures, and based on the satisfaction levels of students at the institution.

‘**It’s rare you meet someone as passionate about student fundraising as Jess.** NUS has never put enough resources or support into student fundraising, and elected officers often just pretend NaSFA, our national body, doesn’t exist. Jess is not only passionate about student fundraising but recognises it as a way NUS can bring so many more students into the movement, that’s why I’ll be voting for her at national conference!’

-Ruth Wilkinson, President, Kent Union

‘**I know that Jess will be the best choice for Further Education students**. So often in NUS Further Education is treated as a token to be used in an election - but the reality is we need a more fundamental understanding of what FE is for us to win on FE issues, and I know that Jess is the candidate who will understand.’

-Matthew Winship, Leeds City College

‘**For me, Jess represents everything that NUS should be about**. A strong, proud woman who isn’t afraid to stand up for what she believes in and won’t be shut down by anyone. That’s why I’ll be voting for her at National Conference, that’s why I’m so excited for her to be the next Vice President Union Development.’

-Gwyneth Sweatman, NUS Wales Women’s Officer

**Find out More!**

Twitter.com/Jessica\_levy\_96

[www.jessforud.com](http://www.jessforud.com)

facebook.com/jesslevyforVPUD

*If you’d like this manifesto in a different format please let me know!*