

Society and Citizenship Zone

Author Zamzam Ibrahim, Vice President Society and Citizenship

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Action Approve

Section 1 | Priorities for 2018-19

In this section of the report you will need to write in the projects you are working on and the progress made since they started.

Projects	Progress
	How has this area of work progressed since it's commencement
Media Response Unit	<p>We have worked with the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and MediaWise, who have contributed advice and codes of ethics to include within the activist briefing, which was launched at Zones 2018.</p> <p>The aims of this project to educate, inform and support student activists around engaging effectively and appropriately with the media/press.</p> <p>As the second phase of the project, we are developing an activist training programme around working with the media, which will be launched to coincide with Lead and Change 2019.</p> <p>I've also worked with a number of student activist that have been targeted by the press to offer them support.</p>
Divestment campaign	<p>We have continued deepening our partnership with People & Planet on our 'Divest Invest' campaign, and together have made great progress towards the milestone of 50% of all UK universities having made some form of commitment to pulling their investments out of coal, tar sands, oil and gas. We are currently working on a comms strategy for when we reach 50% - we will be using a range of platforms and formats to make this announcement and will use it as a way to further challenge the 'social license' of the fossil fuel industry.</p> <p>We continue to provide one-to-one support for officers through both informal - such as email, phone and skype calls - and formal channels - such as bespoke workshops and strategy days. For example, in September we co-facilitated a campaign strategy day with Zero Carbon Cambridge and People & Planet. This allowed us to map out our plans for reaching the goal of surpassing 50% of universities, and I published a blog about this to relaunch the campaign in early January.</p> <p>Since then, NUS has conducted outreach with over 60 Unions where there are active Divest-Invest campaigns on campus. Our interview with both grassroots and student union officers about how they won on Divest-Invest at Durham is our highest ranking article this academic year at a smashing 1332 views!</p> <p>NUS divested our own endowment at the end of last year and we are currently working on plans for students and officers across the UK to decide how it is reinvested through an initiative called Participatory Budgeting. This is dependant on an improvement in NUS' financial position though sadly. Alongside Solar SOAS we are also in the process of trying to work with an SU to develop a community-owned, student-led community energy project on-campus. This is to transform the 13 reinvestment commitments that have been made into meaningful action that supports the just transition to a low-carbon world. At present there are interested and engaged parties at five institutions. Our Community Energy Briefing, launched in early 2018, seeks to support this work.</p> <p>Going forward, we are hoping to work alongside the Palestine Solidarity Campaign to create a resource that details the intersections between our areas of work - from colonial legacies to self-determination - as well as working to ensure that collective liberation is embedded in</p>

	<p>our narrative, and that frontline and indigenous voices are amplified in our communications and campaign demands wherever possible.</p>
Environmental Activism	<p>Working in collaboration with War on Want to allow students unions to decolonize their sustainability work. We launched this at Zones with the Black Students Campaign and promoted it as a way of reshaping environmental activism in the movement and beyond. This work has been picked up by Students' Unions where numerous events have been held and student activist groups have reshaped their priorities.</p> <p>Since Zones, I've visited numerous campuses to talk about 'Climate Change as a race issue' - my write up about chairing the panel at SOAS can be found here.</p> <p>On the environment act I have delivered a range of informative communications for students and we have been granted funding by WWF and the Wildlife Trusts to run ten seminars on campuses with local MPs to support student engagement in the act. These will run between March and May. We will also be running student competitions to encourage engagement.</p> <p>I have also been working to ensure that sustainability continues to thrive after the turnaround process - helping Sustainability to become a standalone charity - this will enable the department to go further and faster. We are also creating a new international charity with the Danish Students' Federation which will offer an even wider pool of programmes - due to launch this in April</p>
Asylum Seekers & Refugees in Education	<p>We have had a successful conference with Student Action for Refugees (StAR) for the Equal Access conference - which took place on the 24th January. We are now in the process of updating resources available to students union, to continue to expand the campaign and enable us to recruit more advocates for and expand the campaign.</p> <p>We have also been speaking to Universities UK, who are keen on supporting the campaign and working with universities to do more to offer scholarships to refugees and asylum seekers.</p>
Active Citizenship in Schools	<p>We have developed a new project which will work in two stages. We have conducted an internal policy review and as a result of speaking to students' unions, including running a session at zones, we have developed a coherent understanding of active citizenship. We have met with sector leaders, such as the British Youth Council and the National Charity for Volunteering Organisations to identify the role that students' unions can play in delivering active citizenship education in schools. We have also met with the British Council to identify ways in which students can benefit from the funding they have available through the Erasmus+ scheme to fund volunteering and activism.</p> <p>We have developed a toolkit available giving them the opportunities and resources for students' unions to work in their communities to support education around, and opportunities for, active citizenship in schools.</p>
Votes at 16 ???	<p>There will be another private members' bill end, which we are working collaboratively with our partners The Association of Colleges (AoC), the British Youth Council (BYC) and The Votes at 16 Coalition to maximise influencing potential.</p> <p>We have developed campaign resources for students' unions to target key MPs and released video clips on social media of students calling for votes at 16.</p> <p>Last year we lead on bringing sector stakeholders together and established ourselves as the expert voice on votes at 16. This includes multiple (even Tory!) MPs quoting our work and publically thanking us in parliament. We have built on this for this year by developing NUS profile in the press.</p>

Section 2 | Zone Policy

In this section of the report you will need to write in the policy that is within your Zone and any progress made since 1st July 2018.

Policy	Progress What work has been done in this area
<p>Motion SC102 International not isolationism</p> <p>Motion 503 Defend migrants and support free movement</p> <p>Motion 504 Refugees Welcome in Universities and Colleges</p> <p>Motion 509 Solidarity with Migrants and Refugees</p> <p>Motion 501 Right to Education for Persons in Detention</p>	<p>This year we have hosted another conference in collaboration with STAR, bringing together students, activists and campaigners taking action on improving access to education for refugees and asylum seekers. We have also continued to support the Equal Access campaign, aimed at challenging the barriers that refugees and asylum seekers face to accessing education and lobbying universities to provide financial support to aid access for these students.</p>
<p>Motion 501 Brexit means Brexit or so we're told</p> <p>Motion 511 Extend EU Referendum Suffrage to EU Citizens living in the UK</p>	<p>This year we have continued to campaign around our key objectives around Brexit. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining a frictionless immigration set up (akin to free movement) for students after Brexit - Maintaining access to the Erasmus+ scheme - Seeking urgent clarity on the status of EU students in the UK and vice versa - Gaining clarity about the future funding arrangement for EU students looking to study in the UK post Brexit. <p>This has seen us deliver a vast variety of influencing work throughout the sector. Most notably, we submitted written evidence to a House of Lords Select Committee inquiry into student mobility after Brexit and were one of only three organisations representing the HE sector invited to give further evidence in person. We have supplied multiple briefing papers to parliamentarians ahead of debates surrounding students and Brexit, including getting a specific shout out from the Shadow Universities Minister in a House of Commons debate for the 'amazing work' NUS have done in this area. We have responded to multiple white papers, consultations and pieces of legislation advocating for the priorities of students.</p> <p>The outcomes of these efforts has resulted in the vast majority of the sector</p>

	<p>and parliamentarians supporting NUS' key messages. The Brexit deal as it stands of time of writing offers some key elements for students including a relatively frictionless migration set up, assurances for EU students currently in the UK and a commitment to underwrite costs associated with the Erasmus+ programme and Horizon 2020 in the instance of a no deal.</p>
<p>Motion 504 Commu Commu Commu Commu Community</p> <p>Motion 503 Students are Citizens, Too!</p>	<p>As explained above, this year we have produced a new project looking at supporting students' unions to share their expertise to build relationships in their local communities and help young people develop as active citizens. This will see students' unions delivering workshops and sessions in their local communities.</p>
<p>Motion 505 Strengthening the student voice</p> <p>Motion 505 A long-term strategy into how we engage our students with politics to increase voter registration and turn out</p> <p>Motion 510 Personalised toolkits for lobbying MP's and local Councillors</p>	<p>This year we have again re-launched our Generation Vote campaign online to support students' unions to run voter registration drives across the country. In May students across England will take to the polls in local elections and we are working with the Electoral Commission to ensure that as many students are registered and turn up to vote as possible. Alongside our online content we have also released an updated campaign guide.</p> <p>In addition this year voter ID pilots will be rolled out across England, impacting multiple FE and HE unions. We have met with senior civil servants in the Cabinet Office to ensure our serious concerns regarding the pilots are heard and to ensure that every step is taken to ensure that no student is prevented from voting because of the pilots. We have also worked directly with unions in affected areas to deliver help and support and have delivered content online to make our concerns known publicly.</p>
<p>Motion 506 NUS supporting the Abortion Rights Campaign for free, safe and legal abortion in Ireland and Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Last year NUS publically campaigned for the 8th amendment in Ireland to be repealed. We are yet to expand a campaign to Northern Ireland, however an opportunity exists to support existing work happening through NUS USI in the future.</p>
<p>Motion 508 Pay Inequality in Higher Education and Employment Rights of University Staff</p>	<p>This year we have sat on the Unions 21 commission into collective voice, a research project looking at strengthening collective voice in unions and in workplaces.</p> <p>Following wide scale work over recent years supporting SUs to campaign for the Living Wage on their campuses, with widespread success, this year we have paused this work to enable us to focus on other priorities.</p>

<p>Motion 509 Fight Climate Change</p> <p>Motion 502 Divest-Invest</p> <p>Motion 507 Climate Change</p> <p>Motion SC101 Ending single use plastics</p> <p>Motion 502 Placements, Apprenticeships and Education for Good</p>	<p>On placements, apprenticeships and education for good we have 3 institutions participating in the pilot: Southampton Solent, UWTSD and University Centre South Devon. We are aiming for for 10 placements per institution with students being paid the national living wage and gaining 2 days of pre-placement training. We have also developing our 'For Good' offerings: Dissertations for Good is now being communicated as research/dissertations for Good and we have added Projects for Good to make the offerings more inclusive for students who may not have a piece of formal research as part of their course but have a innovation/design or creative project as part of their final year assessment. Dissertations for Good is continuing to grow with more students partnering with organisations each year to complete research with impact for social, environmental and/or economic benefit. The Education for Good element also connects with the wider Education for Sustainable Development work we deliver, within which Responsible Futures provides a framework for a partnership approach between SUs and institutions to embed sustainability learning in all aspects of the formal, informal and subliminal curriculum. The number of institutions taking part in this project has increased this year. The SDG Teach-In 2019 has also gained momentum since last year with increased engagement from staff in universities and colleges, reaching even more students.</p> <p>We publicly supported the climate strikes and for the global day of strikes on 15th March, we will support students' unions to encourage their students to take part. To support the expansion of our outreach into schools we have also launched a sustainability schools survey - with over 3000 respondents - to guide our work in this area.</p> <p>We have also taken robust action on the no more plastic policy passed at last year's conference:</p> <p>Since bringing on suppliers to support Plastic Free aisle in 2018, University of Manchester Student's Union have opened a plastic free shop, and Keele University Student's Union are soon to launch their plastic free aisle. University of Sheffield Union led the way with their plastic free shop. We have worked with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to bring together leaders of Manchester's Educational Institutions and the University of Manchester NHS Trust to discuss the potential of institution wide pledge on plastics being committed to at the Manchester Mayor's Green Summit in March. A second round table to confirm is planned for late Feburary and to support this we are working with volunteers students and 4 institutions to conduct plastics assessments in priority departments. NUS have developed a plastics assessment process and will produce an opportunity appraisal for the institutions based on these assessments.</p> <p>We have specifically addressed plastic usage and solutions with Sandwich and Coffee suppliers as part of one hour ethics sessions with all tendering suppliers.</p>
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	<p>We have increased the plastics requirements and guidance for Green Impact Students Unions.</p> <p>We are working with Costa Coffee to trial coffee cup recycling at institutions in the South West.</p> <p>We have requested all food-to-go and beverage suppliers provide feedback on their plastics reduction roadmaps. These assessments will be used to identify key plastics issues.</p> <p>We have completed a WRAP funded project to test approaches to Coffee Cup reduction. UCL, Bishop Grosseteste, University of York, Derby College and Keele University took part, all reducing single use coffee cups by approx.. 30%. Findings to be released soon.</p> <p>We have supported two unions to switch from single-use beer cups to reusables. The process and learning will be monitored to provide guidance to the wider membership.</p> <p>We are constantly seeking out plastics alternative products and this has been a focus on the tender for catering supplies, household, health and beauty.</p> <p>We are developing plans to work with Friends of Earth to implement alternatives to single-use containers.</p>
Motion 506 Fight to save the National Health Service – back the junior doctors and NHS bursary struggles	<p>We haven't taken concrete steps forward with this policy this year because of competing priorities in NUS and the wider sector. We have however continued to highlight the detrimental impact that cuts to student funding, including bursaries and maintenance support, have had on all students' ability to access education.</p>
Motion 508 Stand Up to Racism	<p>This year NUS has continued to support students' unions who have no platform policies to ensure that these are implemented and to overcome any challenges when they arrive. Closely linked to this this year has been the ongoing debate around free speech and no platforming. NUS has consistently presented a clear and consistent argument in the press in print, radio and TV as well at numerous speaking events to advocate for students' attitudes towards platforming and free speech.</p>