nus NATIONAL CONFERENCE

27–29 March 2018 | Glasgow

Zone Reports

If you need this document in another format contact NUS on 0845 5210 262 or email events@nus.org.uk

Purpose of this document

This document contains progress reports from the Priority Zone (owned by the National President) and the Vice Presidents as convenors of the five policy zones; Further Education Zone, Higher Education Zone, Union Development Zone, Welfare Zone and Society and Citizenship Zone.

Delegates should read these reports and will be asked to vote to accept them.

Submitting Questions

Should you wish to, you can ask questions of the Zone Convenors on the content of their reports and their work this year during the relevant accountability session. Please see the order paper to see the times of each report session.

Questions are submitted via online forms which are linked to in the Guidebook app and on the National Conference Hub. You may also wish to refer back some or all of any report if you would like the Zone Convenor to reconsider the content for any reason.

Deadlines

All deadlines for submission of accountability questions or motions are listed in the Guidebook app and on the National Conference hub. Please note that in some cases the deadline is before the start of National Conference.

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Priority Zone report

Author	Shakira Martin, President
Action	Approve

Section 1 | Priorities for 2017-18

Projects	Progress since 1st July 2017
Poverty Commission	I have commissioned an extensive one-year **Poverty Commission**, which has looked at the impact of class on access and participation into post-compulsory education. This has included working with commissioners from CLASS, the Rowntree Foundation, the TUC and the Equality Trust. This report is now completed and being reported at NUS National Conference. Following this I am developing a campaigns and advocacy strategy to secure the successful implementation of the report's proposals. As a part of this, I ensured that a sub-nations board was convened, to ensure the work was sensitive to the policy and political particularities of the nations.
Liberate Education	i) I have worked to ensure that NUS acts on the institutional racism review (IRR) that the organisation undertook, including through commissioning a mandatory **race equity training** programme for all NUS staff and FTOs. This is now also being rolled-out further to students' unions. ii) I spoke at the Equality Challenge Unit annual conference. iii) I undertook extensive work promoting **International Women's Day**, including promoting the work of the Young Mayor of Lewisham, as a young, black woman leader, and speaking at the 'What Women Want 2.0' event in parliament, amongst many inspirational women leaders. iv) In collaboration with the VP Higher Education and Black Students' Officer, I have ensured that the **Black attainment gap** is a key piece of work this year, including raising this directly with the higher education minister as a priority issue. v) I have driven work on mental health and student well-being, including supporting research into faith and mental health, led by our VP Welfare and the Disabled Students' Officer.

London Night-time Economy Commission	I have sat on Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London's commission into the **Night-Time economy** – looking at how policy can be developed to ensure that the night-time economy is accessible, safe and sustainable. An example of this is looking at what can be done to challenge the rise in knife crime. The commission will be reporting later this year. I will be working to ensure that London universities and colleges will be involved in this process as it comes to the later stages. I will subsequently wanting to work with SUs and other elected mayors and local authorities across the country to look at where the findings can be applied to other regions of the UK, where relevant.
Post-compulsory education funding	I have worked to put **post-compulsory education funding** on the political agenda, including through extensive media appearances across the national media outlets (including Sky News, BBC News, ITV News and many others); attending and speaking at all Labour, Conservative and SNP political party conferences; giving oral evidence to the **Lords Economy Committee** on post-compulsory education funding, and through numerous meetings with politicians and other key stakeholders. Through this work, and the work of SUs up and down the country, we have ensured that the pressure built, leading the government final to call a review of tertiary education funding. I have worked closely to ensure to seek to ensure that the student voice was a critical part of the newly established **Office for Students** (OfS). This has included speaking at the launch of the OfS, and joining their new student panel – as well as ensuring that students' unions are a key part of this process.
Brexit	I have worked to ensure that NUS is doing all we can to ensure that the student voice is heard through the Brexit process – a process that students did not vote for, but the consequences of which we will have to live with. This has included: - Attending a trilateral meeting with myself and the Presidents of NUS-USI and USI, to look at how we can address the challenges that will be raised particularly in a Northern Irish context. - Inviting Marius Deaconu, President of the National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania (ANOSR) to deliver a keynote speech at NUS National Conference. Romania hold the Presidency of the EU for the next six months, and so we will be building on these links to ensure that students are heard as part of the Brexit process – and

	that students build links even while our politicians might build barriers.
Challenging toxic cultures wherever they arise within the student movement	I have been working ever since my election to challenge the at-times toxics cultures that can develop within the student movement, including within NUS. As a key part of this work, I have commissioned an organizational review, and I will be ensuring that the organization acts on the findings of this process.
Standing alongside UCU	I have worked to ensure that NUS provides meaningful support and solidarity to UCU, the lecturers' union, through their dispute with university leaders regarding the proposed changes to the USS pension. This has included regular meetings with Sally Hunt, UCU General Secretary; coordinated communications and media engagement, to support their position, and speaking at key events, including a large rally in central London, alongside Sally Hunt and Frances O'Grady, TUC General Secretary. I am aware that the industrial action of course presents challenges for students, and I have worked to ensure that we recognise these to be the fault of the university leaders themselves. I have commissioned legal advice which SUs can use to support students who wish to issue complaints against their institutions.
Governance structures	I have prioritized the work on challenging the culture of the student movement – given that without having a good culture, our governance itself becomes inaccessible. However, we have undertaken some smaller projects: i) We have trialled online voting at Zones Conference where this has worked really well - a process which has been overseen by the Chief Returning Officer - and for the priority ballot which has been overseen by the Democratic Procedures Committee. ii) We are now confident with these processes and will continue to utilise them going forward. Online voting for national conference, and voting in policy electronically is trickier and we are not currently able to offer this in a secure way. We will continue looking into this over the coming year.
International students	I have worked to promote the work of the campaign – including through ensuring that the ISC conference was increased to two days. I have also spoken at several events for international students, including at a joint NUS-STAR conference.

Section 2 | Priority Zone Policy

National Conference Policy	Progress What work has been done in this area since 1st July 2017
Liberate Education	i) I have worked to ensure that NUS acts on the institutional racism review (IRR) that the organisation undertook, including through commissioning a mandatory training programme for all NUS staff and FTOs. This is now also being rolled-out further to students' unions. ii) I spoke at the Equality Challenge Unit annual conference. iii) I undertook extensive work promoting International Women's Day, including promoting the work of the Young Mayor of Lewisham, as a young, black woman leader, and speaking at the 'What Women Want 2.0' event in parliament, amongst many inspirational women leaders. iv) In collaboration with the VP Higher Education and Black Students' Officer, I have ensured that the Black attainment gap is a key piece of work this year, including raising this directly with the higher education minister as a priority issue. v) I have driven work on mental health and student well-being, including supporting work on faith and belief and mental health, led by our VP Welfare.
General Election	i) I worked flat-out through the general election campaign to ensure that students across further and higher education were registering to vote. As VP Further Education at the time, I particularly spear-headed out work engaging students in further education. Students and young people turned out in record numbers, and the work that students' unions across the UK undertook – with support from myself and others at NUS – was a critical factor in this.

Further Education Zone Report

Author	Emily Chapman, VP Further Education
Action	Approve

Section 1 | FE Zone Priorities for 2017-18

Projects	**Progress** What work has been done in this area since 1st July 2017
#myFEjourney	• Launched the #myFEjourney campaign • Provided campaigning packs for FE students' unions across the country to lobby locally for discounted travel • Carried out a survey of 1000 FE students and apprentices about the challenges they face with travel, enabling NUS to understand problems in local areas, such as East Mids and North West ahead of campaigning next year
Learner Voice Framework	• Launched the LVF at FEstival at Walsall College in November. • Sector launch of LVF at AoC conference, speaking to college principals, governors and the wider sector • Self assessment tool developed allowing colleges to evaluate the effectiveness of their learner voice and plan for development. • 23 institutions working through the framework already with a further 12 having registered interest.
Adult Education	• Attended three All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Adult Education – first time NUS have attended for a number of years • NUS on the steering group of a sector-wide research piece, led by the Worker's Educational Association (WEA) into the experiences of Adult Learners within the sector. • Have also contributed part of campaign budget to support this research piece.
SEND Learners	• Working on a project establishing student voice structures in specialist colleges with NATSPEC • Visited a number of specialist colleges throughout the year to meet their reps and students' unions. • Been making the case for NUS to become a more inclusive space for LLDD, including continuing with Makaton training and signage and improving accessibility at our events

National Society of Apprentices	• Worked closely with the National Society of Apprentices, including visiting their working weekends. • Supported them in developing their campaign in just two hours to make the case for discounted travel for apprentices to get to their place of work/study.

Section 2 | FE Zone Policy

National Conference Policy	Progress since 1st July 2017
Putting Learners at the heart of the Post 16 Skills Plan	• Met with DfE to discuss and involve NUS in several aspects of the post-16 skills plan • Secured an NUS place on the DfE Technical Education Stakeholder Advisory group. • Delivered sessions on the P16 Skills plan at SU2017, FEstival and Zone conferences as well as producing briefings for members on the T-Level and Skills action plan. • Visited and spoken to SEND colleges and raised concerns regarding skills education below level 2 not being included in the government's plan to DfE.
Save Our Support Services	• Signed a letter as part of the "Save our Sixth-Forms" campaign led by the Sixth Form Colleges' Association calling for the Post-18 funding review to be extended to reviewing the poor state of funding for 16-19 provision. • On 19th March, Skills Minister Anne Milton confirmed that DfE were reviewing the state of funding and resilience of the sector – a great win for us and the sector. • Work with AoC and VP Welfare on the mental health green paper continues
An Agenda on Tertiary Education	• Response to the Tertiary Education Funding review and the Select Committee Inquiries into value for money made a clear case regarding tuition fees and access to maintenance support is also an issue for adult learners studying level 2 and 3 qualifications and the over 1million fewer adult learners studying now following the introduction of Advanced Learner Loans. • Met with representatives from UNISON to discuss the way forward in campaigning for better funding for FE • Supported the UCU strikes in FE over pay and conditions.

Higher Education Zone Report

Author	Amatey Doku, VP Higher Education
Action	Approve

Section 1 | HE Zone Priorities for 2017-18

Projects	Progress since July 1st 2017
Brexit	NUS's Brexit Task Force has worked on a proactive lobbying strategy, nationally at a sector and government level and across the EU, to make sure that we protect students against the huge risks posed by Brexit. We have ensured that the UK will remain a member of Erasmus+ until 2020. We have worked closely with the European Students Union, hosting a Summit in Cardiff and passing a resolution at the European Students' Board to stand in solidarity with UK students. I have also taken part in the Students of the World campaign, to highlight the value that international students bring to higher education.
Tackling the Black Attainment Gap	The Black Attainment Gap has been a major priority. To support you at a local level, NUS has released a guide for students' unions to sign their institutions up to the Race Equality Charter Mark. At a sector level, we are working with Universities UK on a collaborative project to tackle the Attainment Gap; they have agreed to commission research, and bring universities, students and students unions together to share the work that is being done in this area. That report is being released later this year.
Implementing the Higher Education & Research Act	We have prioritized responding to and influencing the new regulatory framework for English higher education, meeting with every major sector agency and influencing their responses, using our seats on sector committees to push for our vision of higher education, and supporting unions to have impact on their institutional responses.

	In December 2017, over five hundred pages of consultation documents were released. NUS responded to the five major consultations and supported students' unions to shape our response, influence their institutions and submit their own – with eight workshops, one to one support and online guidance reaching over 80 students' unions across the autumn term. The new UK Wide Quality Code for Higher Education contains a commitment for institutions to engage students collectively and individually in their educational experience, which is a significant move away from the shift to individual feedback collection which was proposed. The New Regulatory Framework for English Higher Education contains a number of concessions that NUS has forced, not least a focus on supporting institutions to have meaningful student engagement at their top level of governance, robust student protections across the sector, and a commitment to independent advice and advocacy on campuses. We have been working towards and healthy and challenging relationship with the leadership of the Office for Students, representing students' interests in regular meetings and having a key influence in the composition of the student panel. We have not been afraid to be vocal in our challenge of the new regulator, particularly around the principles of student representation and engagement. As more becomes apparent about the organised moves from Whitehall to block NUS from the OfS Board, we will continue to challenge attacks on the power of the student movement whenever they arise. We will continue to work with the student panel, and advocate that the place on the OfS Board dedicated to an advocate for the student experience be filled by a student. While we welcome the appointment of a student to the Board, we believe that the designated place should not be left vacant.

Section 2 | HE Zone Policy

National Conference Policy	Progress since July 1st 2017
Motion 202: JoJo doesn't know much about quality: what a wonderful world HE could be	This year we have faced a monumental amount of work as a movement to influence and affect key changes in relation to the Higher Education and Research Act, including the establishment of the Office for Students, appointment of a new designated Quality body, the release of a new regulatory framework for English HE and the redrafting of the UK-wide Quality Code. I have prioritised the work from this motion that these opportunities directly relate to, as directed by CR5. We have had a big win on CR4, strengthening the involvement of students within the new-look Quality Code. We have also had a great amount of success on CR6, ensuring through the new regulatory framework that students must in law hold places on senior governance bodies in their HE institutions across England. I will be following up with guidance and support for unions on making the most of this development. I have continued to support work to support students' unions with their course rep systems, with work from both NUS and TSEP directly supporting unions in this, as well as attending course rep conferences around the country. NUS have also been key in governmental lobbying on learning gain, sitting on the national Learning Gain steering committee. On PGT NSS, our NEC PGT Rep Amelia Horgan holds the place on the Postgraduate Information Steering Group ensuring our opposition to a PGT NSS is registered. There are some elements of this motion I have chosen to delay until the second half of the year in order to focus on the establishment of the OfS, and also in line with when the best points in time to develop influence are. In April, I will begin a project on a positive visioning for Teaching Excellence, to tie in with the independent review of the TEF. I remain as ever vocally committed to a Teaching Excellence Framework that actually delivers excellence in teaching.
Motion 204: Partnership is (almost) dead, long live student power!	In the rapidly developing landscape around the Higher Education and Research Act, I have made sure to centre students' collective interests throughout the work - making the power of students and students' unions a key priority within our influencing strategy.

	I have focussed on this principle in our work around the development student contracts area, arguing successfully for students to be understood not just as individuals but as collective bodies, with collective representation being the best way in which to empower and develop the student voice inside higher education. Another key priority I focussed on was student protections – throughout the new regulatory framework and in our wider work on the HERA. I have ensured NUS have worked with sector bodies including the OIA and CMA to enhance students' rights in their education.
Motion 206: Free Education	It is no secret that i support free education. I ran on a mandate to continue our work on free education and have done so throughout this year. I have maximised opportunities not only to state our case about a free, accessible and liberated education system, but also to take opportunities to bring it into practice. I have prioritised work to deliver briefings and guidance to the Labour Party on their education policy as they work towards their next general election manifesto, to ensure that any policy on free education focusses on what matters to students. I have also been on national television, including Sky News and the BBC, stating our case for free education, and have lobbied the government on the case for free tuition and increasing maintenance support – all key elements of our free education policies.

Union Development Zone Report

Author	Ali Milani, VP Union Development
Action	Approve

Section 1 | UD Zone Priorities for 2017-18

Projects	Progress since 1st July 2017
Activities Fund	One of our flagship projects that I promised to last year's conference was **the activities fund** - which launched in the summer. The activities fund for the first time ever gave us an opportunity to directly fund and support societies, sports clubs, media groups, activist networks and volunteer groups on your campuses. We have seen FE Colleges, small and specialist unions and student activists running campaigns and events side by side with NUS. So now if you stop them on campus and ask what is NUS, they can answer loud and clear.
Participation in Sport	Sports clubs are such an integral part of so many of our students' lives, and last year you elected me on a mandate to move sports beyond a whisper on conference floor and into a priority. We launched the **Sport, Sport, Sport** research which looked at breaking down the barriers to participation in sports clubs. This wasn't your average toolki - its aim is to arm our officers around the country with the arguments and facts they need.
Internationalisation Toolkit	Our campuses and students are internationally diverse, and that needs to be reflected in our movement and students' unions. For the first time, we partnered with the International students campaign to **launch our internationalisation toolkit**, supporting SUs and institutions to make our movement more accessible for international students.

Fighting for a more just and sustainable society	Another key priority of our UD Zone this year has been to make sure everything we do is in line with our values and our strong tradition of social justice. Our work with #**StopFundingHate** has been at the forefront of that belief. We have launched campaigns calling on advertisers in the Daily Mail, The Sun and the Express to divest their money until they stop printing such hateful, racist and islamophobic material. So often our activists and SU Officers are attacked and demonized by the far right press; now we fight back. We have also launched the **ethics board**, which is a student-led coalition to make sure we use our strong commercial and trading arm to fight for a more just and sustainable world.
Reimagining NUS Extra	We've heard it before: NUS Extra is more than a discount card. Our discount card puts money back into the pockets of millions of students. However, our Extra card is now crying out for a radical and digital makeover. Rather than talk about it, we have just got on with it and begun bringing NUS Extra online and revolutionising the offer for students. We will be launching our brand new product not in 5 years time, but this coming summer!
FE Union Development	Further Education is not just a priority around conference time, it's something that has to be woven into our DNA. Our FE Union Development work has doubled this year and has seen us growing our movement by welcoming 9 new FE members. Union Development is bigger, is stronger and is in an exciting position to shape our unions for years to come.

Section 2 | UD Zone Policy

National Conference Policy	Progress since 1st July 2017
Civic Engagement through political action	This year we ran the tenth annual Student Media Summit in collaboration with Amnesty International - the premier gathering for students aspiring to careers in media. This year's keynotes were Owen Jones, author, commentator and columnist for the Guardian, Shaunagh Connaire, presenter of Channel 4's 'Unreported World' as well as the Telegraph's foreign editor Jessica Winch. The VP society and citizenship launched the Activist Academy in partnership with Citizens UK, equipping attendees with the skills and knowledge needed to increase campaigning capacity in students' unions. We supported the Sustainable Development Goals Teach In (#SDGTeachIn), pushing for the SDGs (including ending poverty, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, and promoting sustainable economic growth) to be embedded into every single course, at every college and university. Our disabled students officer coordinated political literacy training for members of the disabled students campaign.
The Inclusion Journey Continues	We have been working hard over the last 18 months to improve the accessibility of what we do so that our members with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are better able to engage in our work. We've had a number of successes in this area; recognition as a *Makaton Friendly* organisation, partnerships with new sector bodies and an increase in the number of affiliates from specialist provision. I have also written to the minister responsible for our SEND colleges to push for increased investment in supporting our SEND learners. We are continuing our work in this area as we move through our democratic events this year, and National Conference in Glasgow will be a key point in this. To ensure that our members with SEND are able to engage and enjoy our events, we have taken a number of steps which include: • A set of introductory slides designed to help new delegates with SEND understand the wider context of national conference and

	what to expect to help settle nerves and reduce anxiety • A specific set of joining instructions that are more accessible for delegates with SEND • Appropriate signage and signposting around our venues – including Makaton symbols for those who use them • Dedicated support offered in advance of National Conference for delegates with SEND to understand the conference motions document. This will help to ensure that delegates are informed on discussions, wider debates and the motions that will matter most to them • A dedicated *Wellbeing Space* which will be a calm and quiet space where delegates will be able to escape the business of conference. This space will be offered as part of the conference's wider safeguarding and access support We have also visited Derwen College a number of times to engage with long standing members that have been leading NUS to working on its Inclusion Journey. Following this we have written to the Minister for Local Government around the funding provided for SEND.
If We Don't #Lovesu's Then Nobody Will!	To champion the work of local students' unions I coordinated the national #LoveSUs week in January 2018, highlighting stories of the positive impact of SUs on individuals across the movement. We provided online materials to students' unions to allow them to participate in #LoveSUs week locally and saw over 40 Students Union's across the U.K. The focus on individual stories allowed us to highlight the impacts Students Union's have on the lives of individual members of our movement. From Society committees, sports club captains and sabbatical officers!
Free Periods	This year we have worked in conjunction with the Women's officer and campaign to incorporate sustainable and environmentally friendly sanitary products into the purchasing consortium. Working with Lunette company, we are working on ensuring we can provide these products to our members. We are also working with the Women's campaign and Lunette on a Period Pride campaign through the purchasing consortium.
NUS Extra Card	This year we are seeing the most radical change of the NUS Extra product since it was created. Finally seeing digital NUS Extra come to life, we are working with our member Unions to design an NUS Extra offer fit for the next decade and beyond. Focusing in on the local offer and the engagement of SU's, we are integrating

	campus societies, sports, media, democracy and all elements of student life. Our aim ensuring that the new NUS Extra product is designed to allow students to access more local discounts including a more diverse range of restaurants. From local offers to Kosher and Halal ranges.

Welfare Zone Report

Author	Izzy Lenga, VP Welfare
Action	Approve

Section 1 | Welfare Zone Priorities for 2017-18

Projects	Progress since 1st July 2017
Mental Health on Campus	I worked with the Union of UEA students to FOI 133 universities, across the UK, to get the full picture on mental health provision for our members. The results were truly shocking but not surprising. Only 22% of them had a mental health strategy in place for their students. In response I produced campaigns guidance for SUs in FE and HE so they can lobby their institutions to commit to whole-institution review, putting students mental health front and centre in their strategic planning – and taking the step back to address the causes of students mental health. I have constantly brought to the forefront of sector meetings and panel discussions the need for culturally competent mental health services on campuses, ensuring that students from minority backgrounds and groups are not further failed by their institutions counselling and mental health services – especially as within some of these groups, the stigma around mental health remains extremely prevalent. I have also constantly challenged the sector on the need to not look at student mental health in isolation, as we will only fully solve the mental health crisis when the different sectors that affect students' welfare, such as housing, finance and safety have this issue at the forefront of their agenda, and I have done just that. This year I secured mental health first aid training offered via the NUS learning academy to all students' unions at a massively discounted price, and to FE unions for free. MHFA training can be literally lifesaving and I'm so

	pleased to have been able to offer to so many unions, to ensure that we are there when students may need us most. We also raised awareness around mental health for apprentices in collaboration with representatives from the National Society of Apprentices. with the focus of world mental health day being on mental health in the workplace, we ensured the apprentice voice was not lost in this and within sector meetings too.
Alcohol and Drugs	This year has been really successful for the alcohol impact programme. On 22nd February in Leeds, we hosted the first ever national students and Alcohol conference where 120 delegates learned, discussed and collaborated on the theme of 'students and alcohol' and how to foster more inclusive and welcoming campus environments. Together, myself and the trans officer launched the first ever comprehensive national study seeking to understand the nature of students' drug use in order to ensure that our students' unions so as a movement we can begin to reduce drug use harms, better support students who use drugs, begin to reduce harms and enable them to stay in education.
Housing	I successfully lobbied for the NUS affordability criteria to be applied to universities not just to private providers in the London plan. This means that all new student accommodation (universities and private providers) in London has to provide 35% of all new accommodation at an affordable rent – no more than 55% of the maximum student loan, reserved for students from low income households. There are on average around 3000 new beds in London a year, which will result in 1000 affordable beds each year due to this success. We are using using this win as leverage to plan how we can work with SUs local authorities across the UK and supporting SUs to lobby for similar concessions in their local areas, Following the horrific tragedy of Grenfell, concerns were raised about the potential use of dangerous cladding on the exterior of student halls, and what this could mean for fire safety. In response I produced guidance for students and students' unions around the implications for students living in high rise accommodation. This guidance contained the legal obligations for halls providers to adhere to alongside a checklist for SUs and students on safety provisions within their high rise accommodation. I have attended and spoken at events on this topic, and have worked with the codes of management for halls providers on ensuring student accommodation is safe and is following its required standards for fire safety.

	Working with Jess, the Trans Officer, I have won recognition of trans students' accommodation needs for the first time in its history. Together we lobbied for changes to the ANUK/Unipol Code that regulates purpose built student accommodation so that trans students have access to toilets, showers and changing facilities in their accommodation where they feel most comfortable. I launched the second Homes Fit for Study report, this time with a focus on Fuel Poverty. We found that significant numbers of student were living in cold and damp homes that they couldn't afford to heat. On the back of that I put together a collection of resources to help SUs support students in fuel poverty, including information on understanding you bills, money saving tips and a guide to switching supplier. I responded to a consultation on the need to mandate landlords to make improvements to their properties to make student homes warmer and cheaper to heat, and I provided a template for Students Unions to submit their own responses too. Alongside the international students officer, we co launched an updated version of the 'University Guarantor Scheme', with a particular focus on the benefits of these for international and estranged students . Since then a number of students unions have successfully worked with their universities to ensure that their institution can act as a guarantor for students who may need it. I published a Charter on Tenants' Rights which lays out the legal rights that students have living in the private rented sector, in a clear and easy format. With the Charter, student can quickly see if their landlord is doing something dodgy and get in touch with their SU for help. And finally I put out two new animations as part of our tenant training programme, Ready to Rent, on choosing your housemates, and money management.
Faith and Belief and Hate Crime	This year we have continued to see a rise in hate crime on campus including swastikas and a Nazi flag. We must ensure that we learn the lessons from the darkest parts of history and take responsibility for fighting against hate as the student movement. This year I'm proud that NUS has partnered with the Union of Jewish Students and the Holocaust Education Trust on a pioneering project for Holocaust Memorial Day, Our Living Memory.

	We put together a resource guide for Students Unions' to run their own events to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and bring Holocaust survivors to their campuses, as well as a range of resources that went up on NUS connect. Our Living Memory held over fifty events at instructions across the country, both in FE and HE and in collaboration with local and national authorities. Now more than ever is it vital that we're listening to the stories of Holocaust survivors as soon we will not be in a place where we will be able to hear their testimonies first hand. I was honoured to have welcomed Mala Tribich a Holocaust survivor to speak at Nus zones conference. The first time NUS has had a holocaust survivor speak at an event for an extremely long time. After continuingly raising awareness of the prevalence of antisemitism in society and in the student movement, I was delighted to hear the announcement that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government will be providing £144,000 of funding for a joint UJS and HET trip to take 200 student leaders to visit Auschwitz. I look forward to working with UJS and HET on this, offering NUS' full support. For National Interfaith week, I teamed up with Interfaith Network (the leading interfaith charity in the UK) to provide student 'Coffee Conversations' – another way of getting involved during interfaith week. I also supported a number of SU's doing some great interfaith work during this week. This contributed to the largest interfaith week ever.
Finance	On behalf of the Welfare Zone committee I made submissions to the Poverty Commission with recommendations based around student finance. In particular I asked for the reinstatement of the NHS bursary scheme for all allied health courses and the introduction of properly funded and easy to access university and college hardship funds for student that are struggling. I've been working with Unison, to understand the experiences of healthcare students who have been subject to finance reforms including the move on to a loan system and the disastrous impact that is having for some, in particular students with families. Finally I oversaw the annual publication of the Student Financial support booklet with NASMA and CPAG for all HE and FE unions and sent it out to all unions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland you get your own one!).

Social Media	This year, I've ring-fenced funding for a campaign which will promote better digital behavior. It will emphasize the 'power of the positive' in the digital The best part of the campaign is that its being co -created with students and creative directors to develop an idea which is at the heart of student voice, and champions healthy debate and positive engagement. I have also renewed NUS' social media guidelines and ensured they are sent out in the joining instructions before every NUS event. space and help us to get there collectively.

Section 2 | Welfare Zone Policy

National Conference Policy	Progress since July 1st 2017
We Do not comply: Preventing Prevent	I organised a meeting between myself and Ilyas (Black Students Officer) and Hareem (Women's Officer) to agree the future of the Preventing Prevent work in NUS. It was agreed that the campaign would best fit within both the BSC and WC and I have offered my full support wherever it is needed.
Mental Health and Hardship	I have fed into the Poverty Commission on the issues of student hardship and encouraged lots of member SUs to do the same. Through my formal written response to the call for evidence and via meetings and discussion I have continuously raised the issues of targeting financial support for students, and the deleterious impact of hardship on mental health.
Hate Crime	This year we have continued to see a rise in hate crime on campus including swastikas and a Nazi flag. We must ensure that we learn the lessons from the darkest parts of history and take responsibility for fighting against hate as the student movement. This year I'm proud that NUS has partnered with the Union of Jewish Students and the Holocaust Education Trust on a pioneering project for Holocaust Memorial Day, Our Living Memory. We put together a resource guide for Students Unions' to run their own events to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and bring Holocaust survivors to their campuses, as well as a range of resources that went up on NUS connect. Our Living Memory held over fifty events at instructions across the country, both in FE and HE and in collaboration with local and national authorities. Now more than ever is it vital that we're listening to the stories of Holocaust survivors as soon we will not be in a place where we will be able to hear their testimonies first hand. I was honoured to have welcomed Mala Tribich a Holocaust survivor to speak at Nus zones conference. The first time NUS has had a holocaust survivor speak at an event for an extremely long time. After continuingly raising awareness of the prevalence of antisemitism in society and in the student movement, I was delighted to hear the

	announcement that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government will be providing £144,000 of funding for a joint UJS and HET trip to take 200 student leaders to visit Auschwitz. I look forward to working with UJS and HET on this, offering NUS' full support.
Online Harassment	This year, I ringfenced funding for a campaign which promotes better digital behaviour. It will emphasise the 'power of the positive' in the digital space and help us to get there collectively. The campaign is being co-created with students and creative directors to develop an idea which is at the heart of student voice, and champions healthy debate and positive engagement. A priority motion on online harassment has gone to NUS National Conference on behalf of the Welfare Zone as one of my key priorities. I have spoken with influential MPs and sector bodies on how students can nationally work with those tackling this. We hope to have some developments over the summer.
Student Mental Health	I worked with the Union of UEA students to FOI 133 universities, across the UK, to get the full picture on mental health provision for our members. The results were truly shocking but not surprising. Only 22% of them had a mental health strategy in place for their students. In response I produced campaigns guidance for SUs in FE and HE so they can lobby their institutions to commit to whole-institution review, putting students mental health front and centre in their strategic planning – and taking the step back to address the causes of students mental health. I have also constantly challenged the sector on the need to not look at student mental health in isolation, as we will only fully solve the mental health crisis when the different sectors that affect students' welfare, such as housing, finance and safety have this issue at the forefront of their agenda, and I have done just that.
Mental Health: A Culturally Competent Framework	I have constantly brought to the forefront of sector meetings and panel discussions the need for culturally competent mental health services on campuses, ensuring that students from minority backgrounds and groups are not further failed by their institutions counselling and mental health services – especially as within some of

	these groups, the stigma around mental health remains extremely prevalent. I have lobbied UUK to include a requirement for mental health support services provided by HEIs to be culturally competent and used every platform available to me to reiterate this message to the wider sector. I have produced guidance for SUs to create campaigns on campus to lobby their institutions to ensure services are culturally competent.
Mental Health First Aid	This year I secured mental health first aid training offered via the NUS learning academy to all students' unions at a massively discounted price, and to FE unions with an even more significant discount. MHFA training can be literally lifesaving and I'm so pleased to have been able to offer to so many unions, to ensure that we are there when students may need us most. We also raised awareness around mental health for apprentices in collaboration with representatives from the National Society of Apprentices. With the focus of world mental health day being on mental health in the workplace, we ensured the apprentice voice was not lost in this and within sector meetings too.
Ticket to Ride	This year one of the things I have worked closely with Emily the VP Further Education on is her 'My FE Journey' campaign which is all about the cost of travel to and from college. Where I've fed in most is around working out how we can link the severe underfunding of hardship funds in colleges and travel. We've been starting to lobby for a properly funded student financial support model within each college, especially around travel. In the first few weeks of college before the bursary even comes in so many students can't even get to college because of the cost, but then of course leads to them having poor attendance and in some cases not even receiving their bursary, which is just a lose-lose situation. We must make sure there is a proper pot of money students can apply into to help them with travel to and from college, and hopefully win on this both to the Association of Colleges but also nationally with the government taking action on this to provide and extend the current bursary system too.
It Stops Here/ Sexual Violence	This vitally important work was picked up by the Women's Campaign and a report into staff sexual misconduct is due imminently.

NHS Bursaries	On behalf of the Welfare Zone committee I made submissions to the Poverty Commission with recommendations based around student finance. In particular I asked for the reinstatement of the NHS bursary scheme for all allied health courses and the introduction of properly funded and easy to access university and college hardship funds for student that are struggling. I've also been working with Unison, to understand the experiences of healthcare students who have been subject to finance reforms including the move on to a loan system and the disastrous impact that is having for some, in particular students with families.
Housing	My focus for housing this year has been on securing improvements for students that live in the private rented sector, including tackling fuel poverty and clarifying renters rights. I published a report into Fuel Poverty and subsequently lobbied for a change in the law that would see private landlords mandated to spend up to £6000 on their properties to improve energy efficiency, making them cheaper to run and warmer for student tenants. I published a Tenants' Charter that clearly lays out tenants' rights so every renter can see what they are entitled to and when their landlord is breaking the law. Earlier in the year I met with ACORN and have had preliminary discussions with Cooperatives UK about upcoming work on new models for student housing, including co-ops.
It's Time To Combat Anti-Semitism	I have worked with the Union of Jewish students closely and other community organisations this year on this. There is still a long way to go to rebuild relations and trust between NUS and the Jewish community, but I am proud to be championing this work, and ensuring Jewish students feel and know that they are welcome in our national movement and have a place here. Alongside our campaign for Holocaust Memorial Day, after continuingly raising awareness of the prevalence of antisemitism in society and in the student movement, I was delighted to hear the announcement that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government will be providing £144,000 of funding for a joint UJS and HET trip to take 200 student leaders to visit Auschwitz. I look forward to working with UJS and HET on this, offering NUS' full support.

Dual GP Registration for Students	Through my work on the UUK task force on student mental health I have lobbied for students to be simultaneously registered with a GP at both their home address and their University address to ease transitions between home and institution for all students, and particularly those with specific health needs.

Society and Citizenship

Author	Robbie Young, VP Society and Citizenship
Action	Approve

Section 1 | Society and Citizenship Zone Priorities for 2017-18

Projects	Progress since July 1st 2017
Enacting the recommendations of the Jewish Students' Research report	• Gave evidence in European Parliament around anti-Semitism on campus • National President spoke at APPG on anti-Semitism in Westminster Parliament • Re-established our relationship with UJS following publication of the survey report • Worked with students on campus to take forward recommendations, in particular campaigns to extend Kosher provision and ensure timetabling accounts for religious observance
Votes at 16	• Worked with a coalition of partners to win Votes at 16 across the UK, including the Association of Colleges, British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament • Supported the Private Members' Bill in Westminster brought forward by Jim McMahon MP, including a letter-writing to MPs • Worked with NUS Wales to support them to win Votes at 16 in Welsh elections • Worked with SUs to lobby local mayors to support Votes at 16 • BYC and UKYP • Supporting the next Private Member's Bill from Peter Coyle MP
Political activism and community organising	• Worked with Citizens UK to organize two training days in London and Manchester for SU staff and officers, outlining the principles of community organising • Worked with Friends of the Earth to run an event in Cardiff working with 12 unions on environmental sustainability community organizing

Reducing plastics waste on campuses	• Ran The Last Straw campaign, with 20 SUs and 700 individuals signing up – national media coverage of the campaign followed • Launched the Coffee cup campaign to get our institutions to work towards a reversal of the norm away from disposable cups as the standard, and have secured £30k external funding to take this work forward.

Section 2 | Society and Citizenship Zone Policy

Policy	Progress since 1st July 2017
Brexit means Brexit or so we're told	• Launched a joint letter with British Institute of Human Rights calling for the Charter of Fundamental Rights to be retained as part of the Withdrawal Bill • Convened a coalition of sector stakeholders to call for the Charter of Fundamental Rights to be protected in the Withdrawal Bill • Wrote a series of briefings for MPs to advocate the student interest ahead of the Withdrawal Bill debate in Parliament
Placements, Apprenticeships and Education for Good	• Pilot Placements for Good scheme launched in 2018 • Continued to expand Dissertations for Good
Defend migrants and support free movement	• Worked with STAR on its campaigns to support refugee students, extending their rights and access to further and higher education • STAR and International Rescue Committee were invited to Zone Conference to talk to student officers and activists about their campaign work • Worked with Open Britain and Labour Campaign for the Single Market to protect and extend freedom of movement rights threatened by Brexit • Working with Erasmus+ UK to protect access to the Erasmus European study programme, especially by FE academics and students • Lobbied MEPs for more safe and secure housing for displaced refugees around the EU in response to the migrant crisis

Commu Commu Commu Commu Commu Community	• Worked with International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Ben and Jerry's to lobby MEPs to ensure EU countries take in more refugees • Supported SUs to bring IRC and Ben and Jerry's campaigns to various campuses across the UK • Organised an SU tour to show "8 Borders, 8 Days" – a film highlighting the dangers faced by Syrian refugees seeking safety, and showed film at Sustainability Conference and other NUS events • Training on community organising for SUs to ensure activists have skills to take this campaign forward
Strengthening the student voice	• Toured UK in an ice cream van to run voter registration campaigns on local campuses • Spoke on BBC Radio 4 about the importance of voter registration
NUS supporting the Abortion Rights Campaign for free, safe and legal abortion in Ireland and Northern Ireland	• Worked closely with NUS-USI on their campaigns to extend abortion rights to Northern Ireland • Worked with VP Equalities and Citizenship on USI's campaign in Ireland – will support them ahead of referendum expected on 25 May and encouraging SUs to participate
Pay Inequality in Higher Education and Employment Rights of University Staff	• Worked with Living Wage campaign with SUs and universities • Supported UCU strike action over pension rights in 2018 – attended rallies in Durham and elsewhere • Worked with the GMB to ensure that SU members can become members of the GMB union
Fight Climate Change!	• Further expansion of Emissions Impossible campaign – now 63 universities have committed to divest from fossil fuels, almost half of all UK universities • Ran a Sustainable Development Goals teach-in to spark activism on local campuses – 29 institutions and 229 teaching staff took part, reaching 14,000 students. • Continued to support Student Switch Off – now reaching over 140,000 students • Ran training on community activism on sustainability as above • Working on new project to encourage students to switch to sustainable energy providers

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