

Student statement supporting the YES campaign

Disclaimer: The Union Board of Trustees have made a decision that the NUS Referendum should reflect the balance on both sides to students that NUS is currently under reform and we do not know what the future holds for NUS. Both sides are expected to reflect this within their campaigning. All views expressed in the below statement are that of the campaign teams and not of UPSU

They say that strength lies within a union, and this is especially true with the National Union of Students (NUS). A true political vessel that has not only stood up for your rights time and time again, but also for those who may not have a voice. The NUS has been at the forefront of social, political and global change for many years.

Did you know that the reason students do not pay council tax is as a result of NUS action?

Or that the Young Person's Railcard was curated out of dialogue between National Rail and the NUS?

Or that you can get a postgraduate loan if you are under 30 because of the NUS working with a number of partners?

Or that you can get your deposit back from your landlord much more easily due to the NUS helping put the tenancy deposit scheme into the Housing Bill?

The NUS has also been at the helm of protest movements in the UK since the late 1960s. They stood against the Vietnam War and were instrumental in the huge anti-apartheid movement of the 1980s. The NUS's continued lobbying eventually caused Barclays Bank to withdraw their investment and funding of the brutal South African regime. More recently, the NUS has come out in full support in the "Youth Strike 4 Climate" movement, which will see thousands of students take to the streets on the 15th March in protest of the impending climate catastrophe and the government's inability to act.

Unfortunately, as we see universities under extreme pressure to succumb to the free market, students are starting to be seen as statistics and numbers and not as individuals. The NUS exists to uphold your rights and campaign on issues that matter to you. The NUS is still holding those MPs to account who voted for a tuition fee rise in 2010, those who abolished maintenance grants and the NHS bursary. The NUS will continue to hold to account those who like many of us, from a low income background, will be graduating with £56k in debt.

In short, the NUS stands up for all of us. From the student who grew up in poverty who never thought they'd make it here, to the foreign student who spent their childhood in a refugee camp. The union's Liberation Campaigns work on behalf of all of us to maintain inclusion and diversity within universities.

A Union is only as strong as its members and its affiliations, every member has the ability to influence policy and decisions. So why be part of the 5% who aren't affiliated, and make it even harder for our voices to be heard? Let's stay with the majority and work together.