

Manifesto:

Hi, I'm Maxime, my pronouns are they/them, and I'm running for Liberation Officer. I wish for us to maximise change this year so if elected I will:

- **Empower**
 - I will empower the liberation network PTOs, other SU student campaign groups, and non-SU student movements, like the Rent Strikers, to assure **this position is used to platform the concerns of all students.**
 - **Establish a Student Liberation Campaigns Forum-** While we presently have a EDI forum, this is run by the university with a university staff member which is great for raising concerns, however there is no current space for student campaigns to be discussed.
 - **This forum would be held throughout the year to allow PTOs and their networks, other campaign groups, and independent students to share their campaigns, collaborate, and find about new campaigns, without a presence from the university, to allow free flow of ideas and a safe space for these student activists to freely share without feeling observed by the university.**
 - **Also, to promote these campaigns early on to help interested students get involved who previously may not have.**
 - Make changes to the role of Liberation Officer **that ensures the position doesn't take powers away from the Liberation PTO** who have been voted in to represent specific marginalised groups and ensure that the university is aware these people are 1st point of call for knowledge on their specific group's needs.
 - Campaign for the PTO's to receive at least some sort of financial package (preferably actually get them paid) from the SU - so we are **no longer expecting free labour from our marginalised students.**
 - **Promote more than representational campaigns**
 - Representational campaigns are great for tackling implicit biases, promoting a safe space, and definitely are important and have their place.
 - However, I want our students to be empowered and believe they can do more! We have the power to make real liberating changes in our spaces and the wider world.
 - Eg. the Rainbow Laces campaign are great, but anyone can wear colorful laces- what are we doing to actively tackle queerphobia in sport? Are these spaces safe for all LGBT+ people regardless of race, gender, size or disability?
- **Campaign!** I have so many ideas for campaigns so here's just few:
 - I wish to **continue and further the Liberation Training** developed this year.
 - **Collaborate with student community on liberation campaigns** (e.g. NUS Liberation Campaigns)
 - **Campaign to prevent the platform of hate groups-** The scandal with the Westboro Baptist Church event early this year should never have happened in the first place and want to ensure that rights of marginalised groups are not treated like debate topics again.
 - **Put pressure on the university to provide free menstrual products in all bathrooms,** this includes gender neutral, men's, and accessible bathrooms.

- **Campaign for the university to make changes to its sexual assault reporting system.** It lacks clarity and transparent failed a survivor earlier this year (read their account [here](#)). This system must change to make it accessible and clear and to ensure our campus remains a safe space.
- **Stop the use of Amazon vouchers as rewards-** As disabled person I do acknowledge that Amazon can be useful in emergencies however the company is extremely exploitive, and we need to stop promote them. There are many more voucher types that even offer more variety in what students could get.
- Amongst many more! I wish the university to be accessible and safe for everyone regardless of race, religion, gender, sexuality, size, disability etc.
- **Accountability**
 - Hold the university accountable for its mishandling of the pandemic, especially its affects on marginalised and international students.
 - Hold the University and SU to a high standard.

So, why me?

- I am committed to liberation, not just representational acts. I am not afraid to put real pressure on the university to force it to make changes that will truly help students.
- I don't want us playing 'whack-a-mole' with the liberation problems. Rather than putting out little fires as the pop up but rather get directly to the cause and extinguish it there.

Let's maximise change this year! Vote Maxime 4 Liberation Officer.

What experience do you have?

This year I've been:

- Your Disabled Students' Officer, were I have:
 - **Run the 1st Disability History Month at the university.** I chaired the Disability History Month Planning Committee who organised events over many of our campuses.
 - Sat on UoNSU's **Democratic Procedures Committee.** I took this role to assure the policies passed actually represent the wants of the student body after last years scandal.
 - Ran several **campaigns to raise awareness of disablism and issues with medical care** (e.g., medical racism)
 - **Hidden Disability Sunflower Lanyard Campaign.**
 - Gave a talk on '**Queerness and Disability**' for LGBT+ History Month.
- General Secretary for the UoNSU's LGBT+ Network:
 - Helped organise and run **LGBT+ History Month.**
 - Deputised for the LGBT+ Officer through the year.

Previously I have been:

- Campaign Manager for UoNSU LGBT+ Network where I organised an **inclusive Sexual Health Workshop**, ran and moderated a '**Queer in Academia: Defying Expectations**' panel with queer academics from all over the UK to tackle implicit bias felt by queer students about their potential, and was part of the team that **developed a map of gender neutral toilets on campus.**

- Accessibility Coordinator and Publicity Secretary for UoNSU Disabled Students Network. I **attended monthly meetings with Estates** to improve accessibility on campus and ran **campaigns to combat online accessibility issues**.
- **Trans* Delegate for the UoNSU at the NUS Liberation Conference 2020**. I attended other caucuses to learn more about the liberation needs of more students.

Marketing Statement/Blurb:

- **Empower**
 - Student Liberation Campaigns Forum for all students share their campaigns, collaborate, and find about new campaigns.
 - Make changes to the Liberation Officer role so it doesn't take powers away from the PTOs.
 - PTO's to receive compensation/pay – no more free labour from marginalised students.
 - Promote more than representational campaigns- We have the power to make real liberating changes in our spaces.
- **Campaign!**
 - Make our community to be safe regardless of race, religion, gender, sexuality, size, disability etc.
 - Continue + further the Liberation Training
 - Collaborate with wider student community on liberation campaigns
 - Put pressure on the university to provide free menstrual products in all bathrooms.
 - Campaign for the university to change to its sexual assault reporting system.
 - Stop the use of Amazon vouchers as rewards.
- **Accountability**
 - Hold the university accountable for its **mishandling of the pandemic**.
 - Hold the University + SU to a high standard.

Why me?

- I'll pressure on the university to make changes that will help students.
- No more playing 'whack-a-mole' with issues. Instead of putting out little fires, lets extinguish the source.

Let's maximise change this year!

Maxime 4 Liberation Officer.