

Main Manifesto:

This year students have been ignored, scapegoated, and demonised. Many students dragged themselves back to campus in the middle of a pandemic, having been told we HAD to be there, only for so many to find out it was mostly or completely online, and not blended at all. Students have had to pay for accommodation they cannot use, while being dismissed when asking for safety nets, grace periods, or fee rebates.

Having set up the Notts Uni Rent Strike, I have seen the University Executive Board's contempt for the student community. The average maintenance loan is only just enough for the average rent - in a year where students have been hit hardest by the pandemic, we have been neglected while our Vice Chancellor continues to make £326,000. With the university's eyes being fixed only on economic benefit, students and the wider community have been put at risk.

While students go into higher levels of debt, the university receives our £9,000 (or more for international students) regardless of how badly they treat us. The university executive board isn't even obligated to listen to any of our concerns since to them, we're just consumers of their product. The students and lecturers are what make this community great, not the out of touch executive board who repeatedly fail us. Yet we have no power in the decision making process and no access as to where our money is being spent - this MUST change.

This year has only exacerbated the problems that have been taking place in our university for years. These issues will not magically disappear. We need to fight for a university that is run for its students and staff, in the interests of learning and improving lives, not as a business and not for profit. Change is happening to us, not for us, and it is time we demanded more.

If elected I will;

Demarketise:

- Continue to support The Notts Uni Rent Strike and fight for rent rebates.
- Fight for a rebate of tuition fees for the 2020/2021 academic year.
- Fight for rent reductions in accommodation prices, including a cap on rent increase, and ensure affordable rooms are available.
- Fight for Tenancy Agreements for students instead of License Agreements.
- Robust relationship with Marks Out Of Tenancy, in coordination with approved student housing (like Snug in Sheffield) to ensure landlords and properties are 'fit and proper'.
- Lobby the university to work with a company to act as guarantor on behalf of students who cannot.
- Work with local housing co-operatives to find cheaper alternatives to private landlords.
- Breakdown of where profits from extortionate rent fees in university accommodation are spent.
- Work with NUS Campaign for Students Deserve Better.

Democratise:

- Ensure the Vice Chancellor and Executive Board sit in regular Town Hall meetings where students can raise concerns and hold them to account.
- If 1000 students sign a petition through an official channel, the executive board must respond.
- Work with Undoing Borders to fight against hostile environments for international students & cap international fees.
- Implement a platform to provide feedback through an 'Alternative Student Survey' where students can review how the executive board has performed separate from their course.
- If the Vice Chancellor and Executive Board do not start listening to the concerns of the student community, implement a VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE.
- Fortnightly drop-in sessions to discuss community or student issues.

Support

- Free and accessible Drug Testing Kits on all campuses.
- Awareness campaign & drop-in session from Nottingham Recovery Network about drug safety and harm reduction.
- Destigmatisation of STIs with easier access to sexual health tests on campus.
- Start a 'Report & Support' system for reporting acts of harassment, discrimination or hate.
- Lobby for a safe space in clubs, and 'Safe People' present at all large student events.
- Free sanitary products in Halls, the SU and designated buildings across all campuses, including lobbying the University to expand this to all University bathrooms.
- Continue to make student areas safer with speed cameras and streetlights.
- Make the process of applying to the student hardship fund easier.
- Engage students through community action and volunteering while fighting against council budget cuts and the closure of community services.
- Enquire into rescuing an on-campus cat plus more visits from mental health dogs.
- Donate 5% of my wages to charities and other organisations.

What do you think qualifies you for this role?:

This year I set up the Notts Uni Rent Strike in response to the university's inadequate response to the pandemic. I have helped Nottingham students win back thousands of pounds in rent, putting constant pressure on the University Executive Board to support students, holding them accountable for their continuous failures. Due to the lack of support offered to students I have been in meetings with local councillors and MPs such as Nadia Whittome, to ensure the student population is not left behind.

I am an active member of ACORN Nottingham, a renters' union that is pushing against bad landlord practices like evictions and rent increases. I also take part in community action such as supporting university workers at protests such as the Nottingham Anti-Casualisation group and UCU strikes.

Nationally I have been elected as a coordinator for the Rent Strike Network, helping to reverse the universities' profiteering practices and securing compensation for students up and down the UK. I have also been in meetings with the NUS President, finding ways to push the Students Deserve Better campaign.

As a student I have experienced struggles and I understand the feelings of powerlessness in a system that does not value your personhood outside of how you can benefit the university. I am committed to fighting for a university that actually cares about your experience and one that will provide all it can to make your university journey better.

Marketing summary:

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- Continue to support The Notts Uni Rent Strike and fight for rent rebates.
- Fight for a rebate of tuition fees for the 2020/2021 academic year.
- Fight for rent reductions and ensure affordable rooms are available.
- Ensure private landlords and properties are 'fit and proper'.
- Breakdown of where profits from rent fees are spent.

Democratise:

- Ensure the Vice-Chancellor and Executive Board sit in regular Town Hall meetings where students can hold them to account.
- If the Vice-Chancellor and Executive Board do not start listening to the concerns of the student community, implement a VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE.
- Work with Undoing Borders to fight against hostile environments for international students & cap international fees.
- Fortnightly drop in sessions, to discuss community or student issues.

Support:

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- Free sanitary products in Halls, the SU and designated buildings across all campuses.
- Start a 'Report & Support' system for reporting acts of harassment, discrimination or hate.
- Enquire into rescuing an on campus cat, more visits from mental health dogs.