

## Are you still a #Sucker4Sam? Re-elect Sam as your Liberation Officer!

I'm Sam (he/him), your current Liberation Officer, and I'm asking for your support, again!

When I was elected last year, I did not expect this year to present so many challenges to students at the University of Nottingham. The pandemic has resulted in widespread student dissatisfaction and distrust with the University and has also exacerbated existing inequalities.

In my past two years as an Officer, previously as the LGBT+ Officer and now as the first-ever Liberation Officer, I have worked tirelessly to represent you, and I want to continue my work for you! I have an in-depth and unique understanding of how the Students' Union can enable and empower students to lobby the University, and I have developed effective University relationships to get results for you.

If re-elected, I will:

### 1) Launch the Access to Activities fund

*Why*

- Students do not receive their bursaries until mid-way through the first term. Because of this, students have told me that they can't get involved with student groups at the start of term due to high membership fees which they cannot afford to pay or missing out on discount windows for UoNSport memberships. This then discourages students from joining later on in the term.

*I believe*

- **All students should have the opportunity to get involved in SU activity, regardless of socio-economic background.**

*How*

- I will **establish the Access to Activities fund**; an interest-free loan system at the Students' Union so that no student misses out on joining student groups because they can't afford it.

### 2) Create a Counselling Service that is accessible and inclusive for YOU

*Why*

- The pandemic has led to record-low wellbeing in students; especially those from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds. Students from these backgrounds who access these services say that they feel misunderstood by their counsellor as they don't understand their lived experience.

*I believe*

- **All students deserve a counsellor that they feel comfortable with and understood by.**

*How*

- I will lobby the University to review its service and ensure that it is culturally competent and inclusive, such as **employing diverse counsellors** and introducing the option for you to **voice a preference of your counsellor's personal characteristics**, such as racial group, gender identity, religion, and/or sexuality.

### 3) Create a Curriculum for YOU

*Why*

- As the current Liberation Officer, I have established decolonisation as a University-wide agenda and put equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) at the forefront of high-level discussions. This follows research I was involved in at the Students' Union which identified that "schools should look to implement culturally sensitive and inclusive course materials and opportunities – exploring ideas that diverge from a white, Eurocentric focus".
- Students told me that they felt disengaged and disenfranchised by a Eurocentric curriculum that does not represent them and that they're missing out on crucial learning. Because of this, I have worked with the University to devise a Decolonise Network, which will introduce Decolonise Student Representatives within all University Schools and Faculties to put students at the heart of decolonising work to empower your voice.

*I believe*

- **All students should have a curriculum that they find engaging and is representative of them**

*How*

- I will **launch the Decolonise Network** to combat institutional racism and allow students to make change within their classrooms and decolonise the University
- I will continue to **address and combat all attainment gaps** and other forms of institutional discrimination.
- I will continue to lobby the University to **reduce Gender Pay- and Ethnicity Pay-Gaps**.

#### 4) Build trust in new harassment reporting and supporting mechanisms for YOU

##### Why

- This year, I worked with the University to implement a new anonymous harassment reporting service and support mechanism for the 21/22 academic year. This followed research on our student body which found that victims of discrimination would not report incidents, “believing that nothing would come of it” and “felt a lack of direction when reporting”. I have also been involved in the Union’s review of its Standard of Behaviour and Student Group Code of Conduct.

##### I believe

- **All students should know what harassment looks like and should feel supported and empowered when they report it.**

##### How

- I will lead a **Hate Crime Awareness campaign**, which will educate students on what constitutes harassment, build trust in the new reporting system with students, and enable students to access support when they need it the most.

And most importantly, I will continue fighting for YOU.

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#### About me (250 words)

Over the past two years as LGBT+ Officer and now as your Liberation Officer, I have created impactful University-wide changes.

##### Some of what I've achieved for you so far:

1. Implemented Rainbow Crossings across three UoN UK campuses
2. Created and delivered the brand-new Inclusion and Liberation Training Day for student group committees.
3. Founded the Union’s Liberation Forums to increase communication between marginalised students and the University.
4. Founded and supported student-led committees for all history months: Black History Month 2020, Disability History Month 2020, LGBT+ History Month 2021, and International Women\*’s Day 2021.
5. Secured the ability for trans\* students to change legal names across University IT systems without requiring legal documentation.
6. Created an online map of all gender-neutral toilets across all campuses.
7. Held the University accountable after the BLM Open Letter, securing greater support for Black students such as Black Voice Forums.
8. Rainbow Laces campaign
9. Empowered working-class students by introducing a Working-Class Students’ Officer at UoNSU.

##### If re-elected, I will:

1. Launch the Access to Activities fund so no student misses out on joining groups because they can’t afford it.
2. Create a Counselling Service that is accessible and inclusive by allowing you to choose a counsellor that you feel comfortable with and understood by.
3. Create a curriculum for you by launching the Decolonise Network.
4. Build trust in new harassment reporting and support mechanisms by leading a cross-campus Hate Crime Awareness campaign.

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#### Marketing Summary (200 words)

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