

Christine 4 USI Campaigns MANIFESTO

#CHRISTINE4CAMPAIGNS



@Christine4Campaigns_USI

LEAD
 USI
2023

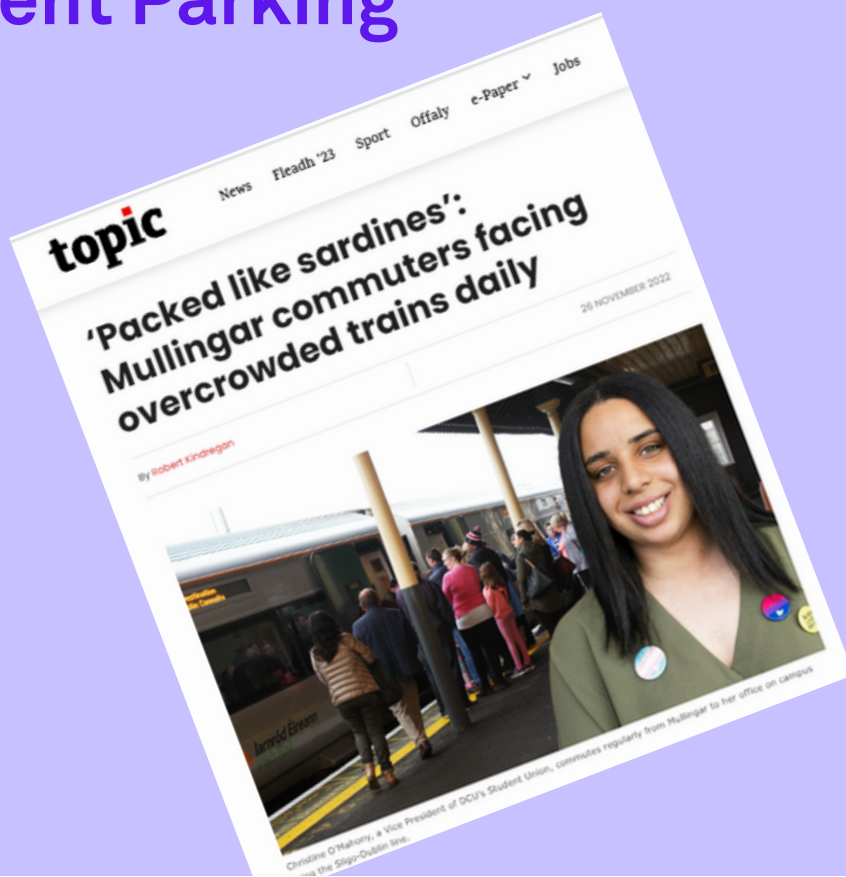
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WHO AM I?

Dia Daoibh, my name is Christine O'Mahony (she/her), I am 24 years old. I am from Meath but currently living in Westmeath and am the current VP for Diversity and Inclusion at DCU Students' Union. I am a Person of Colour or Black and Irish (Jamaican & Irish), Neurodivergent (ADHD) and Bisexual. I have a background in law, international human rights and political communications. I also work Freelance as a local journalist.

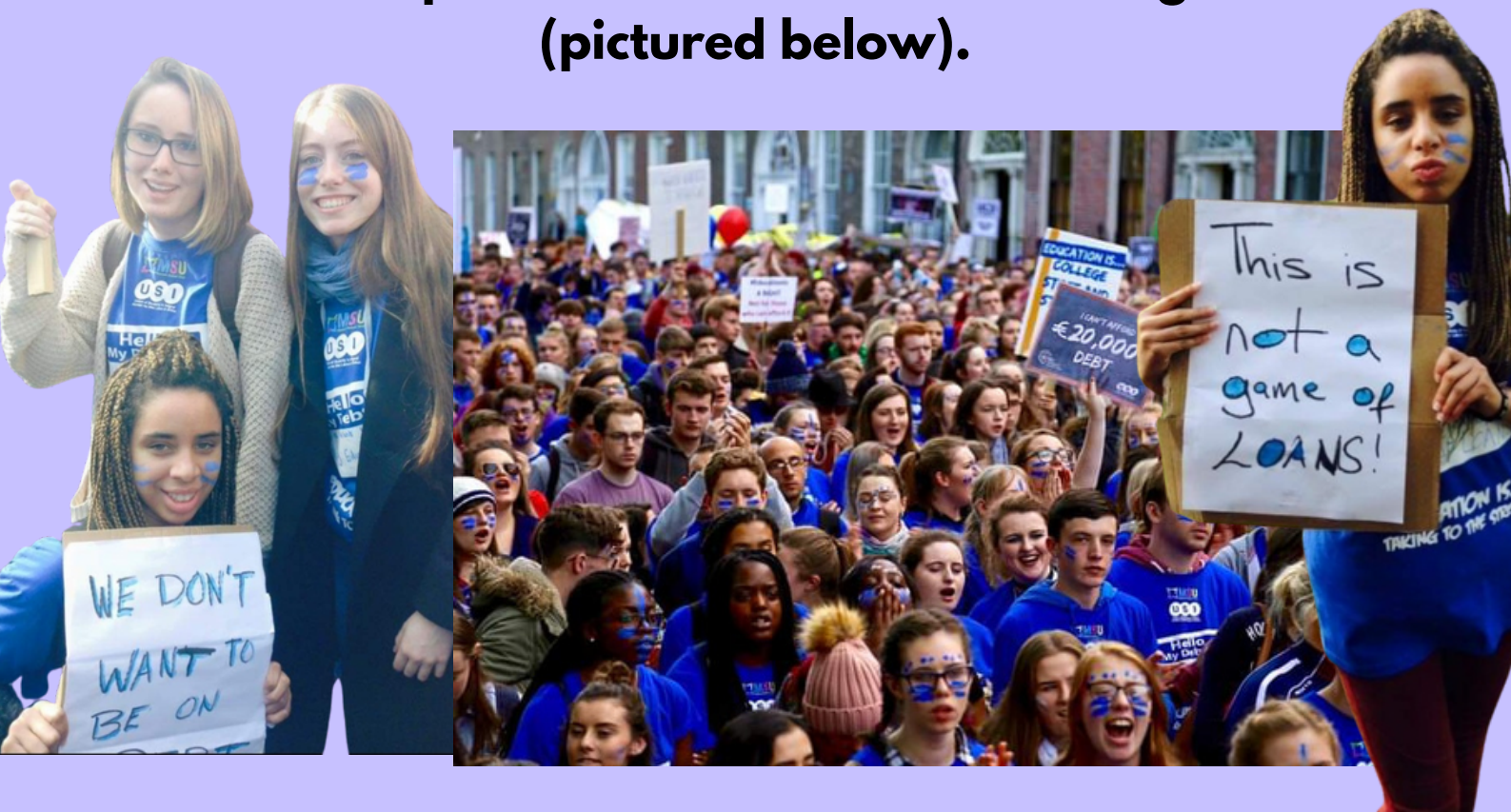
Previously, I represented DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) students as the DARE Senator at Maynooth Students' Union where I lobbied for an accessible pool table for wheelchair users and contributed to the National Access Plan. I was also the Chairperson of the Black Students and Students of Colour Advisory Group at DCUSU and I was a member of the DCUSU sustainability group.

I currently sit on the USI Governance Committee and The Athena Swan Committee at DCU. I supervise the Black Students and Students of Colour Advisory Group and the Disability Advisory Group at DCUSU. I also volunteer as the Education Officer on the Erasmus Student Network National Board, the PRO for the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign and I am the Chairperson and former PRO for the Anti Conversion Therapy Coalition and campaign with Trans Harm Reduction. I am the founder of Mullingar 4 All. I also currently sit as the student union rep on the Meath Trades Union Council.

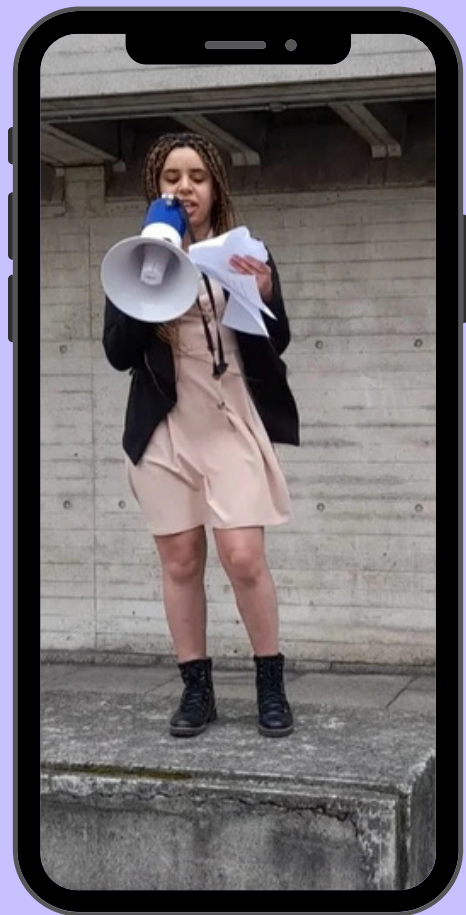
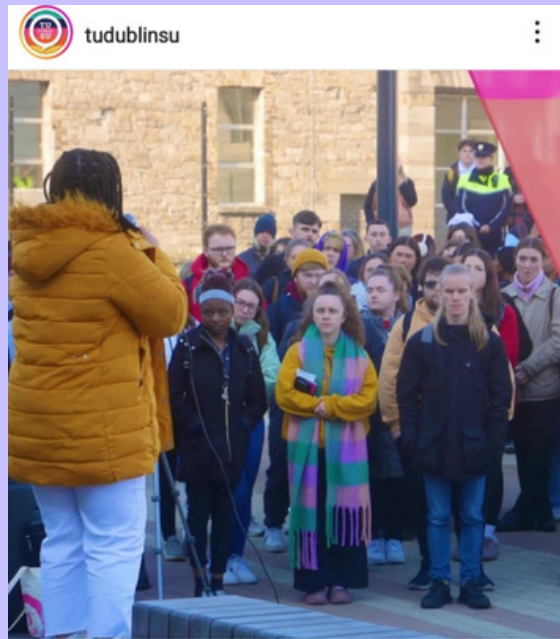
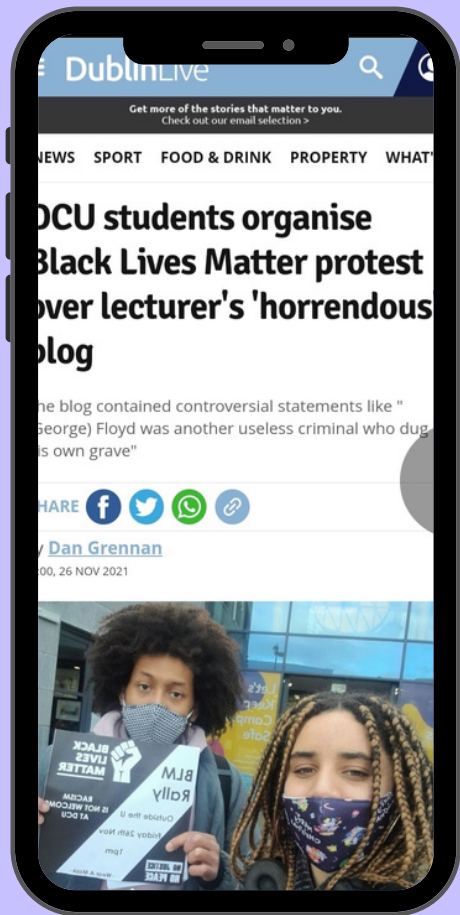


WHY AM I RUNNING?

I am running to be your next VP for Campaigns as I am passionate about activism, equality, diversity, inclusion, community initiatives and social & climate justice. I have been heavily involved in the student movement ever since I was a 1st year at Maynooth University and attended my 1st National USI protest about the cost of college in 2016 (pictured below).



As well as being the current VP for Diversity & Inclusion at DCUSU, I would describe myself as an activist, passionate about tackling racism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, apartheid and the cost of living. In college, I made sure I was a class rep to tackle student issues and submit motions that involved student issues and national issues e.g., Boycott of the Irish Times. I co-organised a Black Lives Matter protest in DCU after reports of a lecturer running a racist and transphobic blog which attracted over 200 people. I have also spoken at other anti-racism protests, such as the one in TUDSU and TCDSU.



I have long admired USI and believe that the organisation can achieve real and progressive change. I have attended USI run events such as EMpower (which encourages those from minority ethnic backgrounds to run for elections), Pink Training (the largest LGBTQIA+ training in Europe) and their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion seminar, where I have gathered many skills and made many friends. I have also attended many USI run protests, such as the Student Walkout & the F**K the Fees protest and protests that USI have supported such as the Cost of Living protest, Maynooth Students' Union's #WheresMyLevy protest, the Dublin Pride Parade and the #IrelandforAll march.



As a person of colour, I have long been a believer that our voices are lacking in the student movement (There has only been one Black Full Time officer in USI & I am the first Black Female Full time officer in DCU Students' Union). Which is why I praise USI initiatives like EMpower that aim to inspire people like me. This is another reason, why I would like to run for USI as there is a need for more diverse representation, as Ireland is a multicultural country. I am all about breaking barriers. With the rise of racism taking place on campuses and teh rise of the far right nationally, it is imperative that people of colour are leading the student movement and are leading anti-racism campaigns.



EXPERIENCE

Maynooth University

- Dare Senator
- 1st year rep - Law Society
- PRO - Rovers Club
- PRO - Archery Club
- Global Ambassador (Erasmus)
- MAP Programme Ambassador (DARE/HEAR)
- Assistive Technology Tutor
- ELSA Summer Law school participant (Refugee & Migrant Law)

University College Dublin (UCD)

- UCD Justice for Palestine member

Dublin City University (DCU)

- VP for Diversity & Inclusion
- Class Rep
- Chairperson for Black Students & Students of Colour Advisory Group
- PRO for DCU LGBTQA & Drag Race Committee
- PRO for Erasmus Student Network (ESN) DCU
- DCU Refugee integration buddy programme
- Journalist for The College View (DCU's Student Newspaper)
- Member of DCUSU Sustainability Advisory Group

Volunteering & Other

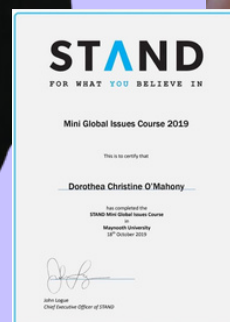
- PRO for Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign (Meath section)
- PRO & Chairperson for Anti Conversion Therapy Coalition
- Education Officer for ESN Ireland National Board
- Assistant Brownies Leader
- Abolish Direct Provision member
- SIPTU member
- Founder of Mullingar 4 All (Anti-Racism group)

Public Speaking Experience

- UCC Fem Soc, Fem Fest- 'White Feminism' 2021
- Tackling Period Poverty in Direct Provision 2021
- JEF Ireland - Gender Equality in Europe talk 2021
- Soc Dems Meath West - Activism & Learning from the Experience of Others talk 2021
- TCDSU's Rainbow Week talk on Conversion Therapy 2021 (Anti Conversion Therapy Coalition)
- DCU Black Lives Matter protest 2021
- UCDSU's talk on Decolonising Irish Academia 2022
- DCU Politics Soc talk for International Women's Day 2022
- TCDSU Rename the Berkeley Library Protest 2022
- USI Postgraduate Symposium 2022
- Maynooth University Law School Alumni panel 2022
- Gorm Media "This is Them" - Episode on ADHD 2022
- TUDSU Anti-Racism Protest 2023
- Was a panel host for many DCUSU events

Achievements:

- ELSA Certificate in Refugee & Migration Law 2019
- STAND Global Issues Certificate 2019
- Certificate in Political Leadership - YAMAL Programme 2021
- Bród na Gaillimhe Campaign of the Year 2021 - Anti Conversion Therapy Coalition
- SAAI Awards - Shortlisted for Student Activist of the Year (2021/2022)
- LLB - Law - Maynooth Uni - 2020
- LLM - International Human Rights - UCD - 2021
- MA - Political Communication - DCU - 2022
- NSTEP Representing Diversity Award - 2023



THINGS I HAVE DONE IN DCUSU

As a Student:

- Became a Class rep for the MA in Political Communications Programme
- Submitted a motion to Boycott the Irish Times in DCU (passed)
- Submitted a motion to have an Asian Culture Week in DCU
- Co-Organised an Anti-Racism Rally that attracted over 200 people
- Lobbied for the continuation of the 109A bus
- Became a member and Chairperson of the Black Students & Students of Colour Advisory Group
- Became a member of the DCUSU Sustainability Working Group
- Attended the Student Nurses & Midwives protest with DCUSU
- Attended the Owen Keegan protest with DCUSU
- Helped organise DCU Drag Race (2021-2022)
- Became PRO of ESN DCU and DCU LGBTA
- Was a speaker for DCU LGBTA's Bisexual Week
- Shortlisted for Activist of the Year at the SAAI Awards

THINGS I HAVE DONE IN DCUSU

As an Officer:

- **Lead DCUSU at the Dublin Pride Parade**
- **Lead DCUSU at the Cost of Living Coalition Protest**
- **introduced Hidden Disabilities Badges to students**
- **Got the Intersex Pride flag to fly outside our Student Union Building**
- **Submitted a motion to support the Comhlámh campaign, ending orphanage volunteering (passed)**
- **Attended the raising of the Green Flag on our All Hallows Campus**
- **Uploaded videos from students with disabilities for Disability Pride Month in July**
- **Presented at DCUSU Class Rep Training**
- **Worked with Student Support & Development for the roll out of Anti-Bias training for students**
- **Attended the Parliamentary Symposium on Diversity and participation in public life and politics**
- **Ensured and hosted Erasmus events for freshers**
- **Registered students to vote**
- **Promoted Consent Classes and got training in Active Consent**
- **Received Islamophobia Training**
- **Brought Diversity to our Christmas Ball (usually there are only white artists playing at Christmas Ball)**

THINGS I HAVE DONE IN DCUSU

As an Officer:

- Attended the Student Walkout (in TUDSU, as I was on sick leave for mental health reasons from DCUSU)
- Represented DCUSU at the Maynooth SU #WheresmyLevy protest, also I am an Alumni
- Celebrated Palestinian Independence Day at DCU
- Attended Pink Training
- Sat on Ukraine Taskforce Committee
- Got elected to the USI Governance Committee
- Worked with the DCU Canteen to get Canteen Culture Feature
- Attended the Free Humanitarians Protest
- Wrote Statement on Refugees & Asylum Seekers
- Wrote Statement on Brianna Ghey's Murder and organised a vigil
- Organised a vigil for those who have died in direct provision
- Was part of the "Yes to USI" campaign
- Pole Danced in aid of Alzheimer's Ireland
- Represented DCUSU at the Ireland For All protest
- Spoke at the TUDSU Anti-Racism Rally
- Member of the Universal Design for Learning Working Group
- Represented DCU at the Friday for Futures March
- Attended the USI Lobby Day
- Took part in INAR's Together Against Racism Campaign
- Sat on Athena Swan Board

THINGS I HAVE DONE IN DCUSU

As an Officer:

- Improved relationships with Africa Soc & India Soc
- Attended Power of Disability
- Provided Irish Sign Language Classes
- Created a Donation Drive for Turkey and Syria
- Created infographics on the History of Pride & Hidden Disabilities
- Took part in the DCU Refugee Integration Buddy Programme
- Spoke to media about housing crisis & Mullingar Transport
- Received Media Training

My Campaign Weeks this year:

- Freshers (Erasmus Events)
- Black History Week
- Arab Culture Week
- Accessibility Awareness Week
- Asian Culture Week
- Holi Festival
- Rainbow Week
- Traveller & Roma Cultural Celebration
- Seachtain na Gaeilge





CAMPAIGNS

A Campaign is an organised course of action to achieve a goal. USI has planned many campaigns throughout the years e.g., No Keys, No Degrees, Blood for All Campaign, The Student Walkout, FK the Fees etc. These campaigns have been quite successful.**

I started my student movement journey in 2016, I attended their National Demo about fees, which attracted over 5,000 students from across the island. In Maynooth, we had five buses filled with students ready to protest. However, since 2016, protest numbers have dwindled, with many students confused as to who USI are.

Covid does have a part to play with this, but also USI is barely interact with ordinary students anymore and is only talking to student officers. USI needs to be a grassroots organisation and listen to the people they claim to represent. We can't expect students to turn up to protests, if these students, don't know the organisation that they are marching with.

USI needs to get their message across and needs to empower students and empower student officers to ensure that future campaigns are successful.

MY CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE

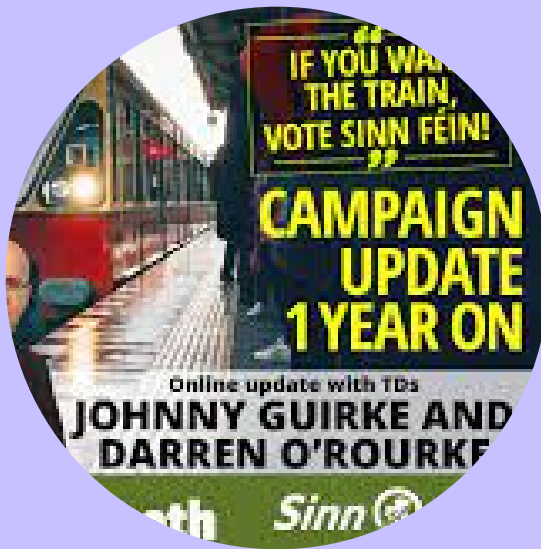
End Image Based Sexual Abuse
Campaign - 2020 -2021



I was part of the END IBSA Campaign, fighting for legislation to end image based sexual abuse, or what is referred to as "revenge porn". As a victim of IBSA myself, I told my story of when my underage nudes were leaked by a man who wanted to blackmail me for money as he had debts to pay due to his drug habits. All the people involved in this campaign, and that included student unions like Maynooth SU & UCCSU, managed to get the attention of the government and the Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act was officially enacted in 2021.

MY CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE

The Navan Rail Campaign - 2020 to
present



I am not a member of any political party now, but when I was a member of SF, I was part of their Navan Rail Campaign. I still support this campaign, despite not being a member.

There is a lack of public transport options in Meath. We would leaflet surrounding areas, organise protests and do email campaigns, raising awareness about the importance of the Navan Rail line. It is in the programme for government that the Navan Rail Line will be built, but everyone part of this campaign still puts pressure on the government.

MY CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE

Save O'Rahilly House Campaign -
2020 to present



I am not a member of any political party now, but when I was a member of SF, I was part of their Save O'Rahilly House Campaign. Again, I still support this campaign, despite not being a member. For some reason, the government has a habit of destroying historical sites in Dublin, O'Rahilly house was one of them. We did an email campaign, encouraging councillors to save the house and protested peacefully outside the Mansion House. Councillors voted to save the house, but developers demolished the house against their wishes to make way for luxury apartments that very few could afford. We supported councillors who called for the immediate reconstruction of O'Rahilly house and the court case launched by Proinsias O'Rathaile, O'Rahilly's grandson.

MY CAMPAIGN

EXPERIENCE

Period Poverty in Direct Provision Campaign - 2021



I worked with Abolish Direct Provision and led the period poverty in direct provision campaign. This involved talking to residents in direct provision and lobbying politicians, like Minister Roderic O'Gorman. To launch the campaign, we had an event called "Period Poverty Tea & Talk", where we invited youth activists and politicians to speak on period poverty. Direct provision residents only get €37 a week, which is not enough as they have other financial costs. We had a pledge that many politicians signed to commit to ending period poverty in direct provision. Eventually, Minister Roderic O'Gorman asked all direct provision centres to provide free period products, some opted in, but unfortunately there was a few that still charged.

MY CAMPAIGN

EXPERIENCE

Boycott Divestment & Sanctions
Campaign with Meath IPSC - 2021
to present



I am a member and the communication officer for Meath Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC). Every year there is a Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

We would target shoppers and ask them to consider boycotting goods and products from companies that are complicit in violations of Palestinian rights. I was also involved in the Boycott HP and Boycott Puma campaign, I visited every computer and shoe store in Navan and asked them to consider supporting the boycott. I have also asked local musicians to sign our petition, which received the support from artists like Davie Furey and Christy Moore.

MY CAMPAIGN

EXPERIENCE

Anti Conversion Therapy Coalition
Campaign - 2021 to present



We officially launched this campaign in April 2021. Myself and other LGBTQIA+ activists, noticed that there was no legislation banning conversion therapy in Ireland. We formed a group, that has over 150 members from different political parties and none all over the island. We worked closely with Ban Conversion Therapy NI, as we wanted our campaign to be an all island campaign. We managed to get the attention of Minister Roderic O'Gorman, who we lobby about this topic. He promised us that there will be legislation by 2024. We helped Ban Conversion Therapy NI by taking part in their email campaign, which resulted in a motion being passed in the NI Assembly to ban Conversion Therapy in NI, however legislation was not drafted before the next election. After this we have launched anonymous surveys, encouraging victims of Conversion Therapy to tell their story to help with legislation in the Republic. While we waited for the government to pass legislation, we have focused our campaign on Trans rights also, boycotting the Irish Times for their Transphobia and fighting for Trans Healthcare by getting involved with Trans Harm Reduction. We will be boycotting Terf "Activist" Posie Parker, when she arrives in Dublin. I use to be the PRO for this campaign and now I am the Chairperson.

MY CAMPAIGN

EXPERIENCE

"Racism is not welcome in DCU",
BLM Rally - 2021



After a lecturer in DCU was exposed to have a Racist, anti-Palestinian and Transphobic blog by a student, myself and PBP Activist, Darragh Adelaide started planning together after we were not satisfied with the response that DCU had. That basically he is entitled to his opinion but DCU doesn't share the same view. We decided to condemn the racism by organising a BLM rally in DCU. Black students and Students of Colour, came forward and revealed their experiences of racism in DCU. Our protest attracted over 200 people and I secured a meeting with the board, to give them suggestions on how to make DCU a safe space for students of colour. I continued this work as VP for Diversity & Inclusion at DCUSU.

MY CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE

Yes to USI DCUSU Campaign- 2023



As three out of the five of us, were not re-running in the DCUSU elections, we were in charge of the "Yes to USI" campaign. Every couple of years, our membership with USI must get renewed and we rely on students to vote on whether we stay in USI or whether we leave. Our class rep council voted for us to launch a "Yes" campaign, the other options were a "neutral" or "No" Campaign. A No Campaign was launched in DCU and it was our job to debunk their misinformation. I spoke to students encouraging them to vote yes, many did believe the misinformation from the No Campaign, it was my job to communicate the benefits of USI. I also did some class addresses. 90.4% voted in favour to stay in USI. I am delighted with the result, but at the same time, I think there is a lot of work to be done, so students know exactly what USI is, as the students that I talked to didn't know USI and only voted because I told them about what USI achieved after the Budget.

MANIFESTO

EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Many students do not know who USI are, nor do they know that it is USI who is fighting for their student rights. USI cannot expect students and student officers to take part in their campaigns and protests unless they manage to empower them.

If elected VP for Campaigns:

- I will organise campus visits to all USI affiliated Universities and talk to officers and ordinary students
- I will meet with student run groups like Students 4 Change (TCD). Sometimes groups like these have more info to share about the struggles that students are facing, compared to the student union itself
- I will make sure that the USI message is spread across to all students
- I will work on our communication so students realise the benefits of protesting or taking part in a campaign
- During campaigns that involve speakers, I want ordinary students to speak of their experience
- I will send out feedback forms, to get the student opinion on campaigns
- I will create activist workshops for part time/full time officers & students

COMMUNICATION, USI PODCAST & CAMPUS VISITS

Communication and transparency is Key. As mentioned before, many students do not know about USI. Only student officers know exactly what USI is getting up to, as we are recipients of the weekly USI newsletter and have the opportunity to go to Comhairle Náisiúnta (CN) every 6 weeks. This USI Newsletter needs to be open to every student. Students need to know what USI discussed at CN and what was voted on. USI would get more engagement if there was a newsletter that students could sign up to.

USI's instagram page only has 6,000 followers, yet represents over 320,000 students island wide. I would like to work with member organisations to get more students interested in USI.

We are in the podcast era, and I believe if USI set up a podcast on student issues and invited officers and students to be guests on this podcast, the USI message will be spread even further.

Campus visits are vital, I would like to help other officers with their campaigns and communicate with students, so the Coiste Gnó can come up with strategies to represent these students.

CAMPAIGN STRATEGY COMMITTEE

The Campaign Strategy Committee is vital. The VP for Campaigns works with members of the Campaign Strategy Committee to develop national campaigns. The committee comprises of 12 representatives (3 from each region)

I have spoken to members of the campaign strategy committee, and they have told me that they would love to see more ordinary student representation. If elected VP for Campaigns, I want to see if we can increase the amount of representatives on the committee. We need a diverse range of voices. We empower students if they know that their voice is valuable.

National Campaigns are very important, it what gets students interested in the student movement and these campaigns get the attention of the government. The USI fees protest in 2016, is what inspired me to get involved in the student movement.

I want USI to communicate what was discussed at Campaign Strategy Committee to all students and student officers, not just the Campaigns Working Group. This could be included in the newsletter that I want to set up.

SUT/SUT+ TRAINING

SUT stands for Student Union Training. All newly elected officers attend this training in the Summer months.

I want part time officers to attend this training, whether they attend it online or in person. Many part time officers that I have spoken too have felt that they would benefit from some training sessions before they start fully in September.

I would like SUT/SUT+ to have training sessions on Activism and campaigns like making colleges more sustainable/plastic free.

As we represent students from all over the island, any slides that are produced needs to include statistics and relevant topics from the North. This would help with any cross-boarder campaigns. I found SUT/SUT+ very Republic focused this year.

SUT Training
2022,
Dundalk



COST OF COLLEGE

In the Republic we pay the highest fees in Europe, in the North students are paying up to £4000 a year for their undergrad. If you want to study a masters you are paying from €6000-9000. If you are an international student, you are paying an extortionate amount in fees. USI's position has always been to abolish fees. Any Minister that USI meets, needs to be aware of this position. We have seen some progress where the government has given students back €1000, we need to continue to push for free fees.

We don't like when everything is Dublin focused, but unfortunately, Dublin is the most expensive place to live in if you plan to live there to go to college. There is a lack of housing everywhere, I want USI to push for more Affordable Purpose Built Accommodation. We need to fight against this eviction ban and push for an immediate rental cap. We also need to make sure that students, especially those in Dig-style accommodation, are protected to prevent student homelessness.

We have seen a reduction in Transport fees, but we need to continue to lobby the Minister for Transport to ensure that prices are reduced on more private bus routes.

COST OF COLLEGE (CONT.)

SUSI needs to be reformed. SUSI grant levels to match the Cost of Living. SUSI also has to take into account students who are estranged from their parents. A lot of students miss out on SUSI as they don't take into account the up to date status of a student and their parents e.g., parents could be retired.

PHD Stipend needs to also match the National Living Wage.

I would like to continue the Cost of College Campaign that has been set up by the current VP for Campaigns.

I will ensure that the student voice is heard at national campaigns such as the Cost of Living Coalition.

I want to work on a campaign on reducing the price of childcare. Childcare is a barrier to education and it should be affordable.

DCUSU at the Cost of Living Coalition Protest, November 2022



EFFECTIVE LOBBY DAYS & THE BUDGET

Lobby Days are the best way to get your points across to Ministers and Politicians. While there was a few students at the latest Lobby Day, we need to attract more students.

I feel making it completely Dublin focused might be the issues here, students are not going to travel from Cork & Kerry to Dublin for a lobby day.

University of Galway SU, had a lobby day on their own campus and I think USI should work with MOs to organise local lobby days like this, as well as the lobby day in Dublin.

Students from the North may also feel excluded. I want to work with NUS-USI, to organise lobby days, when there is a functioning government in the North.

I want more government ministers there, as we are preaching to the choir, if we are only lobbying opposition TDs & Senators.

Before USI makes submissions on the Budget, I want the opinion of students, as we are fighting on their behalf.

NATIONAL MARCH TO THE DÁIL/STORMONT & REGIONAL PROTESTS

USI is most known for their yearly national protests from the Garden of Remembrance to the Dáil. However, Covid stopped these sort of protests.

The 2016 protest that I attended, attracted over 5,000 people. I want a protest as big as this, if I am elected the VP for Campaigns.

I want to work with NUS-USI, to ensure that there is an equivalent protest in the North, where students march to Stormont.

I also understand that it is not possible for all students to travel to Dublin, so I would like to work with MOs to have regional protests also, like we saw during USI's F**k the Fees protest.



Regional F**K
the Fees protest,
2021



ALL ISLAND VOTER REGISTRATION

A general election could be called at any time. It is vital that students are registered to vote for local, general and Seanad elections. We have had the same politics for the last 100 years, it is time for change. Change can only be achieved if everyone votes and that includes students.

With no functioning government in the North, an election could be called at any time. Students in the North have had enough, it is also important that they are registered to vote.

I want to make campus visits to all colleges all over the island to ensure that they are registered to vote. It is also important that it is communicated that students must submit another application if they have changed address.

With a referendum on the "women's place in the home", it is vital that students are registered to vote in this referendum.

CROSS BORDER CAMPAIGNS

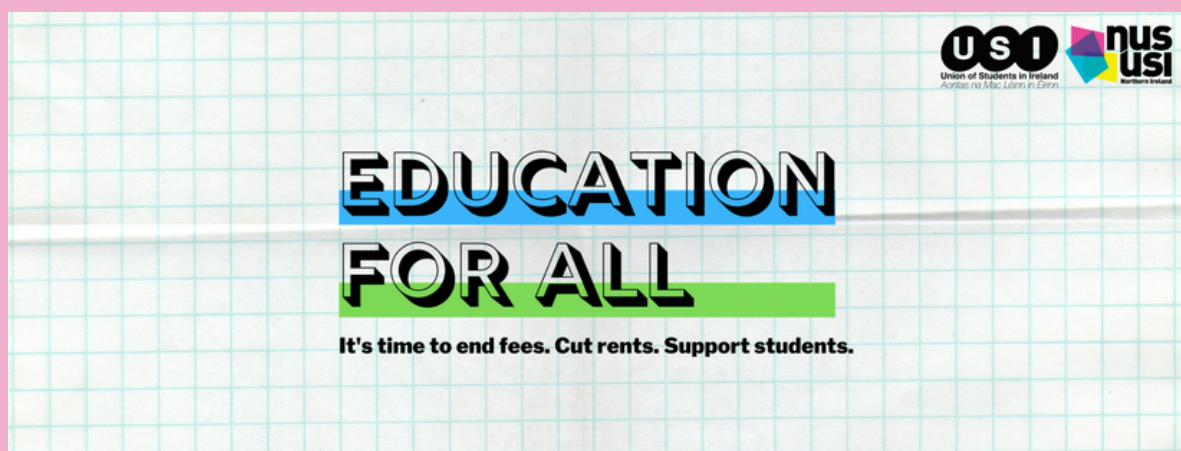
If elected VP for Campaigns, I would like to work with NUS-USI on many cross border campaigns. Students in the North, need to feel like they are included.

There are many campaigns we can work on, such as:

- Free Public Transport
- Student fees & housing
- Climate Justice
- Abortion Rights
- Refugee Rights
- Gender based violence

etc.

USI has had many cross boarder campaigns so far, such as the 2020 "Education for All" campaign, which called for a change in how Higher Education is funded.



TRANS HEALTH CARE CAMPAIGN

Ireland ranks the worse for Trans Health Care in the EU. USI is great for fighting for LGBTQIA+ rights such as same sex marriage and Blood For All. I want to work with the VP for Equality & Citizenship and create a Trans Health Care Campaign.

USI already has an email template, which they introduced at Pink Training, but only participants at Pink Training saw this template. It is time to get all MOs involved.

TCDSU is one MO, that is already working on their own Trans Health care campaign.

We need to distribute information on the state of trans health care, work with Trans students who are comfortable talking about their experience and lobby politicians and GPs.

I would also like to work with other LGBTQIA+ organisations like Trans Harm Reduction.



GAEILGE CAMPAIGNS

"Is Fearr Gaeilge Bhriste, ná Béarla Cliste". Caithfimid ár dteanga a choinneáil beo. Is é an fáth go bhfuil an oiread sin múchta ag an teanga ná mar a mhúintear í !!

Broken Irish, is better than clever English. We have to keep our language alive. The reason why so many are turned off by the language is because of the way that it is taught.

If elected VP for Campaigns I would like to support the Gaeilge for All campaign, that is looking at ways to fix how Gaeilge is taught in schools.

I also want to support the Gaelcholáiste campaign for Dublin 2,4, 6, 8. Students who study in a gaeilscoil in these areas are deprived of a Gaelcholáiste and have to travel to other parts of Dublin to study in an all Irish secondary school.

An Irish language Act has been passed in the North, however I want to support Dream Dearg Activists to ensure that this act is respected.

I would also like to work with NUS-USI to form the Irish Language Taskforce.



POSTGRAD STUDENTS & WORKERS

Postgrad fees are quite high. Most of the postgraduate community in Ireland are international students, whose fees are even higher. I want USI to fight for free fees for these students.

USI should form a partnership with Postgraduate Workers' Organisations (PWO) and work together to fight for postgraduate rights like the postgrad stipend, which must match the living wage.

If the government won't budge on the postgrad stipend, I want to work with the VP for Postgraduate Affairs and MOs to organise a Postgrad Strike outside the Dáil.

I also want to raise awareness about mental health while doing a postgrad, as a former postgrad student, I know about this struggle.



SUSTAINABILITY

- I want to make USI plastic free and create a campaign so other MOs will follow. Already one MO, UCCSU is completely plastic free
- To reduce our emissions we need to encourage students to rely on public transport, but we need to lobby the government for better transport options. For example in the BMW region, there is no frequent buses that connect all the colleges, like St Angelas College (they can only rely on one bus from Derry, which is always late) or in Maynooth if you miss the 6pm bus to any town outside of Dublin, it means you have to go to Dublin and take another bus home.
- We should be fighting for free public transport island wide to encourage students to use public transport
- I want to work with ISSU and Friday for Futures for any future Climate Justice Campaigns
- We should be encouraging colleges to retrofit and let wildlife grow, as part of the All Ireland pollinator plan
- I want to write statements condemning organisations that are spreading carbon emissions
- As a scooter user, I want more colleges to provide free bikes and scooters to borrow, like DCU & UL does
- I also want to lobby for more vegan options in canteens



DIRECT PROVISION

- A White Paper was produced by this government that said that direct provision was going to end. Now anyone coming to Ireland will not be entitled to emergency accommodation. USI needs to be more vocal about our position on ending direct provision and condemn the government's plan that leaves more and more people homeless.
- The Far right is rising and it has been devastating seeing all the anti-Refugee protests in Ireland. We need to mobilise and show our support to refugees and asylum seekers and work with organisations like Le Chéile
- We need to do more community initiatives like donation drives at Comhairle Náisiúnta, so we can donate food and clothing to residents in Direct Provision. I have submitted a motion on this at congress.
- We should also campaign against organisations that profit from direct provision like Aramark and Avoca, some college canteens are owned by Aramark.



THE 27TH AMENDMENT

- The 27th amendment of the Constitution of Ireland, limits the constitutional right to Irish citizenship by birth. I believe anyone born here, should belong here and that the amendment is racist and should be abolished. We need to be vocally against this as it has led to many deportations, including students. In DCU, one of our graduates, Mehwish, is at risk of being deported
- The "Born Here, Belong Here" campaign by Labour Youth, is a campaign that USI should support



Myself and Lucky Khambule from MASI, protesting against Mehwish's deportation outside the Department of Justice, "We wish for Mehwish" 2022

ARTICLE 41.2 REFERENDUM

Article 41.2 states that a women's duty is in the home, for years activists have asked that this section should be removed.

A referendum will be held in November, if elected VP for Campaigns I want to lead the yes campaign to get this removed and debunk any misinformation from any No campaign. I have already seen Transphobic and Misogynistic people claim they would be against removing this article.

We need to register students to vote in this referendum, which will involve campus visits.

As many feminists have pointed out we also need to fight for other women rights:

- A referendum on Housing
- Protection for Domestic Violence Victims
- Retaining the Eviction Ban
- Tackling Gender Based Violence and Femicide
- Ending Period Poverty



STUDENT NURSES & TEACHERS

If elected VP for Campaigns, I want to make sure that Student Nurses and Student Teachers are protected and that they are entitled to fair pay, fair working conditions, reasonable accommodation while they are on placement.

Student Nurses are only entitled to €500 a year, which is not good enough, we need to lobby the government on this.

The government also need to compensate student teachers on placement.

I want to work in INMO and other teaching Unions, to see how we can fight for these students.



Myself with other DCU Students' on our way to the INMO Student Nurses Protest, November 2021

USI CAMPAIGNING COSTS

I have submitted a motion to congress on USI Campaigning Costs.

Running a USI Campaign is quite expensive. Even if you don't buy t-shirts, business cards, leaflets or posters, you have to pay for travel and hotels out of your own pocket (unless your Union is nice and pays for you)

This creates a barrier for students running in these elections. Student Officers might be able to afford the costs, but students who are working part time, or may not have a job at all will struggle.

If my motion passes I would like to work with the USI Governance Committee and the President to ensure that there is a budget for USI contestants.

I also want to look at the locations of hustings, to make it easier for students.



UNION AWARENESS

- It is important that all SU officers are signed up to a trade union. USI in particular has a partnership with SIPTU. I have heard that there have been issues with TOIL and annual leave, and it is vital that you are signed up with a Union in order to receive the correct advice.
- USI's partnership with SIPTU needs to be communicated better, I want to encourage all students, especially those who work while study, to sign up with a trade union
- USI needs to call out exploitation in the workplace, as many students are seen as fair game by employers



I am a member of SIPTU and currently sit on the Meath Trades Council as their student union rep. This was our photoshoot for May Day 2022.

MENTAL HEALTH & BURN OUT CAMPAIGN

- USI not only looks after students, it looks after SU officers. It is vital that SU officers take some rest and bond with other officers. I want USI to create more bonding activities outside of the ones organised at Comhairle Náisiúnta. There should be a push for more regional bonding or online bonding e.g., Online Sex Toy Bingo. This may not be "Campaigns" specific, but it is something I really care about and want to put forward as an idea to the Coiste Gnó
- I want to work with USI Mental Health and the VP for Welfare, to create an information mental health and burn out campaign and work with them to find an external therapist that will provide support for USI officers and SU officers, should they need it
- I would like the USI social media to include videos from students and officers talking about mental health and burnout

**Mental
health
matters**

ANTI-RACISM, SOCIAL JUSTICE & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The VP for Campaigns always supports Social Justice Movements and if elected I would like to continue to follow this tradition.

It is vital that we oppose racism, especially now that racism and the far right are creeping onto campuses. Already two MOs have faced problems to do with racism, like DCU and TUD.

I want to work with the VP for Academic Affairs to see how we can decolonise education. MOs like Trinity have been fighting to rename buildings that are named after slave owners.

I want to continue to support the BDS campaign and fight for Palestinian rights, as well as fighting for education rights for women from Afghanistan, stand up for women rights in Iran and much more.

USI also need to continue to fight for reproductive rights without restrictions, North and South and for other social justice movements and campaigns.

I have submitted a motion to set up a USI Anti-Racism Group and hope that it passes.

CREATIVE ART STUDENTS

- Art colleges are quite underfunded, art materials are very expensive (€702 a year, according to NCADSU). We need funding for Art colleges and should support campaigns like the one organised by NCADSU.
- Politicians should be aware of how artists are struggling both at college and after college when searching for a liveable wage job.
- NCADSU, IADTSU, TUSSU and MTU CORKSU all collaborated on a art exhibition this year, USI should be supporting initiatives like this and helping with the organisation.



STUDENT PARKING

- Every year there is a problem with student parking in all colleges
- In Maynooth University in particular, students fear that they may fail their degree as they are missing lectures trying to find parking spaces. Even their SU VP for Education found herself working from her car
- I want to create a campaign on student parking and clamping issues as no student should miss out on their education because they can't find a parking space.



Thank you for Reading

I hope you enjoyed reading my manifesto and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions

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