

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES GUIDE

**READ MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES SEEKING YOUR VOTE
FOR ELECTION TO THE NSE AND MAC**



ISSU
IRISH SECOND-LEVEL
STUDENTS' UNION

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FOREWORD

Dear Annual Assembly Delegate,

We are now in the final stretch to Annual Assembly 2021, and this means it is time for campaigning!

CAMPAIGNING

From 12pm on Sunday 2nd May, candidates for election to the National Student Executive & Monitoring & Advisory Committee will be campaigning for your vote. To find out more about them, you can read their answers to some questions about themselves, their experience and their plans in this document. You can also view their Manifestos, both here and at issu.ie/aa-candidates . This webpage also contains candidates' videos and links to social media.

HUSTINGS

If you wish to find out even more about the candidates, we encourage you to attend the Live Hustings taking place on Monday and Tuesday 3rd & 4th May. You may submit questions for these hustings through [this form](#) .

The Zoom links for hustings will be shared with participants, and hustings will be viewable on the Annual Assembly Delegate Hub shortly after the event

ENGAGE!

For the first time, ISSU will have a dedicated Discord running throughout Annual Assembly Week. Here you can meet other delegates, pose questions directly to candidates and become a part of the ISSU Community. The link to join the Discord is shared via email to all delegates.

And that's it! We encourage you to engage with all election activity throughout the week and support all candidates, who have taken a brave step in putting themselves forward to lead the union for the year ahead.

If you have any questions relating to the election, please direct them to me at returningofficer@issu.ie

Kind Regards,
Craig Smith
Annual Assembly Returning Officer

NSE ELECTIONS

UACHTARÁN

PRESIDENT

CAILLUM HEDDERMAN

John the Baptist Community School
6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Caillum and I'm an 18-year old from the beautiful county of Limerick. From a young age, I have been a passionate advocate for what is right. Whether it be climate justice or sustainable development, student's rights or youth involvement, I have spent the past number of years ensuring the voice of young people is at the forefront of debate and decision making.

I am a sixth year student in John the Baptist Community School, in Limerick, where I sit as President of our Student Council and work with students and staff across the school to ensure student's issues are addressed.

One area that I never planned to become a part of my advocacy journey, which evidently did, was the ever-so important topic of mental health. At the beginning of the first lockdown, I noticed our collective struggle with that overwhelming feeling of worry as we passed the first two weeks of restrictions. I started a conversation series called 'Shur I'm grand' to address the questions fellow young people had surrounding their mental health. The series ran for seven episodes, with seven incredible and well-known guests, with over seventeen thousand views across the series. I was later awarded an individual Garda Youth Award for the impact this series had. This series was where I witnessed the power of normal conversations through accessible platforms, an element of my life I hope to carry into my Presidency.

PAST EXPERIENCE

To be a successful President, you need relevant experience and the proven ability to represent those that elect you. I believe I would bring this, along with a proven track-record of sustained advocacy for students and young people. I have also worked on governance structures on a national and global level, especially young people's engagement in organisations, which I believe would be invaluable in the role of President.

At the age of seven, I joined the scouts where I developed a passion for leadership along with the importance of protecting and appreciating our environment.

Through the years, I have been an advocate on a local, national and international level for sustainable development.

In early 2020, I was appointed an external representative of the World Scout Movement, where I lobby European policymakers and institutions to address issues facing young people.

Last Summer, I was elected the youngest-ever public representative to a Local Council, where I now advise Limerick Council on Strategic Policy regarding climate action, biodiversity and the environment.

Throughout the Leaving Cert 2021 debate, I was an outspoken voice for students, hosting live conversations with key politicians and debating across radio, TV and other media outlets. With a group of fellow students, I now host 'The Student Perspective' Podcast, where our goal is to provide a space for students to debate issues facing them with the tagline, 'if you're prepared to educate a voice, you must be prepared to listen to it'. I am also a panelist on Spin South West and Spin 1038's radio show 'Spin Ar Scoil', where I share my opinion on Leaving Cert related debate.

Within the ISSU, I held a seat on the Department of Education's Advisory Group on Education for Sustainable Development, where, alongside the Sustainability Officer, we advised and developed national policy to support students to learn the value of active citizenship.

I am also a member of the Youth Engagement Strategy team of World Scouting, where we work on global policy to ensure young people's voices are heard in decision making bodies.

MY PLANS

I would like to create a more ambitious, bigger and connected Union. Our values reflect the importance of uplifting all student voices, but I believe we only uplift a small minority of voices.

To be ambitious, we need to be proactive, not reactive. Education should never be politicised, but it has been, so we should utilise that. As a non party affiliate, I would ensure we work with all political parties and bodies to address student issues in the most pragmatic manner. We need a commitment to Senior Cycle Reform, alongside other issues, and I believe with my experience, I am the most suitable candidate to do so.

To build a bigger Union, the rhetoric of membership growth will not solve it, it is about broadening who we represent. We need to formally represent students with SEN, students living in Direct Provision and from a socio-economic disadvantaged background. We have the opportunity to not only address issues for students on the ground, but solve them on an international level, through structures such as OBESSU and the European Youth Forum, bringing a pan-European approach to solving the issues of Irish students.

The most important element of change is a collective voice, which we can achieve through reforming our current structure. After observing the structure at work for the past year, I have several ideas which would ensure every issue is addressed, giving everyone from member schools to NSE officers the opportunity to work on said issues. That is just one step. We need to give Regional Officer's more scope in their role, taking on a leading role in their region to ensure every student is heard. This will be done through my commitment to monthly consultations in every region.

Lets become the strongest second-level student voice our country has seen.

MANIFESTO



@caillum4pres

Caillum Hedderman Presidential Candidate

Lets create an inclusive culture change in our Union to revolutionise student voice.



It's as simple as ABC...

Ambitious

Progressive & Proactive Working Structure
Lead, support and amplify the voice of change
Consistent and Balanced Political Engagement

Bigger

Diversifying our representation of students
Trendsetting on a national and international level
Amplifying the voice of all students

Connected

Reform our Governance Structure
Monthly Meeting of All Member Schools, by Region
Broaden the scope of the Regional Officer role

My Experience



External Representative of the World Scout Movement

Elected Representative to Limerick City & County Council

OBESSU European Change Maker

Advisory Group Rep. to Dept. of Education on Sustainable Ed

ISSU Sustainable Education Working Group Member



FORÓGRA



@caillum4pres

Caillum Ó hÉadromain Iarrthóir don Uachtarán

Lig dúinn athrú cultúir a chruthú
inár nAontas chun guth na mac
léinn a réabhlóidiú.



Tá sé chomh simplí le ABC...

Uaillmhianach

Struchtúr forásach oibre
forghníomhach
Guth an athraithe a
threorú, a thacú agus a
mhéadú
Rannpháirtíocht
pholaitiúil
chomhsheasmhach agus
chothrom

Níos mó

Éagsúlú a dhéanamh
ar ár n-ionadaíocht ar
ndaltaí
Treoctaí a leagan síos
ar leibhéal náisiúnta
agus idirnáisiúnta
Ag méadú guth gach
daltaí

Ceangailte

Athchóirigh ár
struchtúr rialachais
Cruinniú míosúil de na
ball-scoileanna uile, de
réir réigiúin
Raon feidhme ról an
Oifigigh Réigiúnaigh a
leathnú

Mo thaithí féin



Ionadaí Seachtrach ar
Ghluaiseacht na Gasóga
Domhanda

Ionadaí Tofa do Chomhairle
Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Déantóir Athraithe Eorpach
OBESU

Ionadaí ón nGrúpa Comhairleach
don Roinn Oideachais ar
oideachas inbhuanaithe
Ball de ghrúpa oibre oideachais
inbhuanaithe ISSU



UACHTARÁN

PRESIDENT

ADAM LAMBE

St. Macartan's College

6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Adam Lambe, I'm a 6th year student in Monaghan and I am running to be your president. I have been involved in the ISSU for almost two years now and it has been the most rewarding thing I have ever been involved in. This organisation has allowed me to grow immensely as a person by giving me the resources to help those within my region; Cavan and Monaghan. The aspect of this organisation that I love the most is how it is completely student led. I think this is the most inspiring part of our union, the fact that this is open to all students to get involved in. However, I am more than aware of how difficult it can sometimes be to get involved in, and this is something I will definitely work on as president.

I had never heard of the ISSU before getting involved with it. This is a massive problem for the Union as although we have over 500 member schools, I am sure that the most of the students in these schools have never heard of the ISSU, with better events and increased focus on opening up the union we can boost our engagement!

I am running for president not because I want any publicity or power but because I want to work to make a change for the better and give back to this union in the way of good leadership! The idea that student voice should be at the centre of education and should inform the way in which we learn is a no-brainer, yet there is still a long way to go until we can say that student voice leads our education.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I have gotten involved in many organisations fighting to bring youth voice into the centre of the discussion. My ambition and dedication to education reform has brought me to OBESSU which is the European umbrella organisation over the ISSU. In this organisation, my role as a trainer is to deliver workshops and webinars to students all across Europe on how to run and grow student unions, this means I have a mature knowledge of the core principles of good leadership!

On top of this I have given all of my free time volunteering for causes I believe in such as ending direct provision, fighting for climate justice and lobbying for rural mental health supports.

As a member of the Spunout National Action Panel, I am always looking at creative ways we can provide youth information, tying in very closely with the education system. No matter what organisation I have worked with over the past couple of years, the ISSU has always been my central focus. I have consistently enjoyed doing ISSU work and as a friend pointed out, whether happy, sad, stressed, busy or bored, I would always be talking about my students union.

My experience within the ISSU is something that will be most beneficial during my presidency. Through my two terms as regional officer I have had the opportunity not only to start my own initiatives to make student life better in Cavan and Monaghan but I've also been able to contribute at a national level. I have happily devoted so much of my time working on many projects in the ISSU. I wrote up many articles of our fundamental governing document the constitution during both of our constitutional reviews, I wrote into our constitution the role of the regional officer and changed many structures within the union.

MY PLANS

During my presidency I will move the needle for student representation in our education system, I have three main goals; to Reform, Unify and Engage. It's clear that the education system has needed substantial change for years, recently the ISSU has begun to quantify the changes needed with the Senior Cycle Reform Report of which I contributed to. I will work tirelessly for changes to our assessment model and our senior cycle curriculum with special attention to mental health alongside relationship and sex education. One immediate item that needs to be on the agenda is ensuring a fair standardisation model for this years leaving certs, it's our future on the line.

Our union also needs some reforms of its own, I've made huge progress in pushing for an expansion of the regional officer body within the union. I have successfully passed Article 11 of the constitution where I gave the regional officers many important rights and responsibilities. I also wrote the regional officer guide which is a handbook for all of our officers on how to be effective in their roles. I will continue this work of restructuring our decision making to make us more democratic by investing in our grassroots! This also includes boosting our engagement by creating spaces where any and all students can contribute to our work and give us feedback, this opening up of the union needs to be a priority!

Some of the things that set me apart are my experience, my passion and my commitment to you. I am dedicated to this union and all the students we represent, this is why I have decided upon taking a Gap Year. I want to work full time to make sure you are spoken up for with a loud and passionate voice.

MANIFESTO

Vote **ADAM LAMBE** #1 for President

Dear students, we need a strong and passionate leader for our union. You have the power to decide who this person will be! I am confident that I am the most capable person to lead our union and represent you on a national level. *This manifesto is my promise to each and every second level student in Ireland!* If you agree with any of the points in this manifesto, I ask you to consider voting me #1 for president.

My Experience

ISSU Regional Officer

Being twice elected to the role of Regional Officer has given me so much necessary experience. Throughout my time in the ISSU I have worked on Constitutional Reform, Vote at 16, Sustainability and I even set up my own Mental Health WG!

OBESSU - European Level

At a European level, I am a trainer with the Pool of Trainers in OBESSU which is the umbrella organisation over the ISSU, I am also a member of their Quality Education working group!

Spunout National Action Panel

After volunteering with Spunout for a year, I was elected by my colleagues to their National Action Panel, this was a huge honour for me! Here I help steer the organisation's work.

National Youth Council Ireland

Having worked on national campaigns and international projects with NYCI on the Youth 2030 committee, I have unique experience in working with key stakeholders.

My Manifesto Points

1. Reform

- I will work for a complete overhaul of the Senior Cycle curriculum and the Leaving Cert Assessment.
- I will work with the NCCA to develop better RSE and a Mental Health curriculum.
- I will use the Parent and Student Charter to lobby the Department of Education for stronger student councils.

2. Unify

- Decentralise the decision making to include the ROB more in our policy.
- Invest in our grassroots and give structure to ISSU School Reps.
- Expand the use of working groups to include more students.
- Develop training for student council liaison teachers.

3. Engage

- Collaborate with other youth organisations such as Scouts, Comhairle, Girl Guides and more.
- Create an online forum for members to debate and give us feedback.
- Hold more events to empower and uplift student voice

Over on my social media I give full explanations on each Manifesto Point!
@AdamLambe4President

Adam Lambe

FORÓGRA

Vótáil

ADAM LAMBE #1 don Uachtaránacht

A chomhdhaltaí, tá ceannaire láidir agus paiseanta uainn dár gCumann. Tá an chumhacht agaibhse chun an duine sin a roghnú. Táim cinnte gur mise an duine is cumasaí chun ár gCumann a threorú agus ionadaíocht a dhéanamh daoibh ar leibhéal náisiúnta. *Is geallúint é an forógra seo do gach uile dalta dara leibhéal in Éirinn.* Má aontaíonn tú le haon pointe san fhorógra seo, iarraim oraibh machnamh a dhéanamh vóta #1 a thabhairt dom mar Uachtarán.

Mo thaithí

Oifigeach Réigiúnach ISSU

Tá réimse taithí agam anois tar éis dom bheith tofa mar oifigeach réigiúnach dhá uair as a chéile. Le linn mo chuid ama san ISSU d'oibrigh mé ar Leasú Bunreacht, Vótáil ag aois 16, inbhuanaitheacht agus bhunaíos mo Ghrúpa Oibre na meabhairshláinte féin.

OBESSU – Leibhéal Eorpach

Ar leibhéal Eorpach, is oiliúnóir mé leis an Linn oiliúnóirí i gCumann na ndaltaí Eorpacha atá mar scátheagraíocht ar an ISSU, is ball mé chomh maith lena nGrúpa Oibre Do Chailíocht oideachasúla.

Painéal Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta 'Spunout'

Bhí sé dochreidte nuair a roghnaíodh mé ar an bpainéal agus ba mhór an onóir nuair a toghadh mé ar an PG náisiúnta. Caithfidh go ndearna mé rud éigean i gceart.

Comhairle Náisiúnta na hÓige

Tá ullmhúchán sainiúil déanta agam chun obair leis na páirtithe leasmhara ó mo chuid oibre ar fheachtais náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta le NYCI ar Choiste na nÓg 2030.

Pointí mo fhorógra

1. Leasú

- Oibreoidh mé chun an Ardteist agus an cúrsa Arteistiméireachta a athrú.
- Oibreoidh mé chun Oideachas Gnéis agus caidrimh níos fearr a fhorbairt agus curaclam meabhairshláinte a fhorbairt.
- Úsáidfidh mé an Cairt Tuismitheora agus dalta chun brú a chur ar an Roinn Oideachais Comhairle na ndaltaí níos láidre a fheidhmniú.

2. Comhaontú

- An próiséas cinnteoireachta a dhílárú chun an ROB a chuir san áireamh inár bpolasaithe.
- Infheistíocht a dhéanamh inár gcosmhuintir agus struchtúr a thabhairt dár n-ionadaí ISSU.
- Oiliúint a fhorbairt do mhúinteoirí a n-oibríonn le Comhairle na ndaltaí.

3. Nithe le hAthchaomhnú

- Comhoibriú le cumann óige eile ar nós na Gasóga, Comhairle, Treoraí na gCailíní agus níos mó.
- Fóram ar line a chruthú go mbeadh baill in ann dul i mbun díospóireachtaí agus aiseolas a thabhairt dúinn.
- Níos mó eachtraí a eagrú chun árdú croí agus cumhacht a thabhairt do ghuth an dalta.

Tugaim lán míniú ar gach pointe ar an bhforógra seo ar mo shuíomh soisialta @AdamLambe4President

Adam Lambe

UACHTARÁN

PRESIDENT

EMER NEVILLE

Presentation Secondary School
Clonmel
6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Emer Neville, I'm 17 years old and a 6th-year student from Tipperary.

From a young age, I have always been incredibly passionate about student advocacy and rights, this passion has only developed as I have grown older. I have a vast amount of experience within the ISSU and other youth organisations and I believe this would benefit me greatly when leading the union. Students are the biggest stakeholder within the education system and I want to work with you to create a vibrant, accessible union where the student voice is at the center of all discussions.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I've been involved in student activism for quite a while.

Within the ISSU, I've been a member of the Equality Working Group, the Tipperary Regional Officer and the Communications Officer of the National Student Executive, to name a few.

Outside of the ISSU, I'm the Chairperson of Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg, a member of the Ombudsman for Children's Youth Advisory Panel, a member of the Youth Work Ireland 'Youth Participation Working Group' and was a participant in the Foróige Youth Leadership Programme.

I've worked over the last few years to engage young people, to listen to them and advocate for what they want.

The ISSU has grown substantially over the past few years and it needs a strong, experienced leader. I believe my time within these organisations has given me the qualities, characteristics and strengths needed to effectively lead the union and ensure second-level students have a union representing them that they know and can actively trust.

Throughout my tenure in student advocacy, I have always ensured I was representing the views of others when acting in a representative capacity, this is vital for the role of President.

During the Leaving Certificate fiasco of 2021, I engaged with media locally and nationally to ensure the student voice was not only heard but listened to.

I believe I can bring the necessary experience, passion and skills to the role of President, but most importantly, I believe I can bring a voice that will not just be the representative students need, but the representative students deserve.

MY PLANS

To try and put what I'd like to achieve for second-level students in under 300 words is a difficult task, to put it shortly, I want to unite them.

Over the last year, students have been divided and it's time we had a union that represents ALL students, not just some students.

I want to make Leaving Cert Reform and the Leaving Cert 2022 priorities of the union, to ensure that we begin reforming the flawed system that is the leaving certificate and to also ensure that the class of 2022 do not undergo the stress and uncertainty faced by the classes of 2020 and 2021.

I want to create a helpline specifically for second-level students who are victims of Image-Based Sexual Assault and who are too often forgotten when discussing this topic.

I want to ensure the Regional Officer Body is used to their highest ability to improve the grassroots of the union because without them we would be nothing.

Most importantly, I want to create an ISSU for YOU. I want to work with you to build a union EVERY student knows about and has full access to, this is to ensure that we accurately represent second-level students across the country.

For far too long the union has been closed off to only those who were active, I want to change this, to ensure that the ISSU is what it says it is, a representative body for second-level students.

MANIFESTO

My name is Emer Neville.

I'm a seventeen year old, sixth-year student from Tipperary and I'm running to be your next ISSU President because I feel I have the dedication, skill-set and experience needed to lead the union.



A union for you:

Sturdy and tangible policies need to be implemented in order to ensure our union is a union.

We need to get union status, a difficult task is given that we are completely student-led; however, a letter from the Department of Education and Skills would be just as effective.

Student Empowerment:

Every elected officer should receive training in the following areas: advocacy and dealing with decision-makers, leadership, teamwork, policy writing, interacting with media. However, we need to extend this training to our membership.

Effective Engagement:

We need to effectively engage with our grassroots, our ROB, our ISSU School Reps and most importantly our membership.

The Presidential Vote:

A president should work to unite the NSE they lead. Therefore, I believe that a president should only vote in the event of being a tie-breaker vote and should remain neutral in all other votes.

Leaving Cert Reform:

Following the launch of our Report on the Senior Cycle and Senior Cycle reform, the union needs to be focused on working with the Department and relevant stakeholders to ensure that reform is at the top of the educational agenda.

Transition to a Post-Covid Era:

As we emerge from an incredibly stressful and uncertain time for students, the ISSU needs to be strong and organised with clear goals and aspirations in mind.

Gaeilge, Culture and Language:

As the representative body of English-medium and Irish-medium schools, we need to continue our transition to a bilingual union.

Image-Based Sexual Assault:

We need to protect survivors of IBSA. Let's link with organisations such as CEARTAS, Text 50808 and End IBSA Ireland to create a helpline specifically for second-level students.

FORÓGRA

Emer Neville is ainm dom.

Táim seacht mbliana déag d'aois. Is dalta sa séú bhliain mé ó Tiobráid Árann agus táimse ag rith don phost mar Uachtarán Aontas Dhaltai Iar-bhunscoile na hÉireann.



Aontas Duitse:

Caithfear polasaithe réalaíocha agus cliste a chur i bhfeidhm ionas go bhfuil an Aontas ag feidhmiú mar aontas. Caithfimid stádas oifigiúil mar Aontas a fháil amach, rud a bheidh deacair mar gur eagraíocht stúirithe go h-iomlán ag daltaí sinn. Bheadh litir ón Roinn Oideachais éifeachtach mar gheall air sin áfach.

Cumhachtú Daltai:

Ba cheart go mbeadh traenáil ar fáil d'Oifigigh sna topaicí seo: ar abhchóideacht agus a bheith ag plé le páirtithe leasmhara, ceannaireacht, obair foirinne, scríobhnóireacht polasaithe, ag plé leis na meáin. Ba cheart go mbeadh an traenáil seo ar fáil do bhallraíocht an aontais chomh maith.

Rannpháirtíocht:

Caithfimid rannpháirtíocht a chur chun cinn i measc ár mballraíocht go léir - ár n-Ionadaithe Scoile, ár n-Oifigigh Réigiúnacha agus na daltaí uile atá mar bhaill san Aontas.

Vóta an Uachtarain:

Ba cheart go mbeadh sé mar aidhm ag an Uachtarán a gComhairle Náisiúnta a aontú. Mar sin, creidim gur chóir ceadúnas a thabhairt don Uachtarán vóta a chaitheamh i gcásanna éigeandála amháin.

Leasú na hArdteiste:

Agus Tuairisc ar Leasú na hArdteiste foilsithe ag an Aontas, caithfimid béim a chur ar obair a dhéanamh leis an Roinn agus páirtithe leasmhara ionas go bhfuil leasú ar bharr intinne an chlár oideachais.

Aistriú chuig an Ré iar-Covid:

Agus sinn ag druidim chun dheireadh na paidéime, caithfidh an Aontas ceannaireacht a léiriú le h-aidhmeanna soléire agus láidire.

Gaeilge, Cultúir agus Teanga:

Mar eagraíocht atá ionadaíoch ar scoileanna lán-Bhéarla agus lán-Ghaeilge, caithfimid leanúint ar aghaidh ag troid ar son gaelcholáistí agus ár n-obair mar Aontas dá-theangach a leanúint.

Drochúsáid Ghnéasach Íomhá-bhunaithe:

Caithfimid marthanóirí DGIB a chosaint. Ba cheart dúinn nasc láidir a chruthú le h-eagraíochtaí cosúil le CEARTAS, Text 50808 agus End IBSA Ireland chun líne chabhrach a chruthú do dhaltai meánscoile.

RÚNAÍ

SECRETARY

EOIN CONNOLLY

Villiers School

5th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Eoin Connolly and I'm in 5th year at Villiers School, Limerick. I'm 16 years old and I live in Castleconnell. I have Asperger's Syndrome and I'm mad about politics, history and law. I'm passionate about issues and their solutions, I've always wanted to do something important, but opportunities seemed to pass me by. I'm running for Secretary to do my part for my peers and this union, to do what I've always wanted to do, to be part of something bigger than myself and effect positive change for others, this is my chance, and I wouldn't live with myself if I didn't go for it.

PAST EXPERIENCE

My personality, interests and experience make this role the one where I can best serve this union. I'm good at the kind of technical work this role entails, such as organisation and procedure. I've been involved in plenty of work to prepare me for this. Within school I've been actively involved in the likes of debating, philosophy, Global Schools and Model UN, outside of school I've been involved in my local Comhairle na nÓg, where I am currently Secretary.

Through all of these I have participated in and convened debates, organised events, and sought solutions to important issues. Now, through this role, I hope to apply my skills, experience and dedication at a national level, to effect real, positive and immediate change for us. I want to be an advisor to my fellow officers when I can be useful, and to help on some campaigns I'm particularly passionate about and knowledgeable on.

MY PLANS

In my role I want to be involved in a mix of campaign and policy oriented work, as well as working on more technical and organisational aspects of the union. As far as campaigns and policy is concerned, while I will help out and give advice wherever possible, there are some specific areas I want to contribute to.

I want to work on Leaving Cert 2022, as my classmates and I will be taking it and I want to ensure we get a fair shake, just as before, the department will likely liaise with ISSU, while this will of course be led by other officers such as the President and Education Officer, I would like to help. I also want to help with some of the work of the Disability Officer, specifically pertaining to neurodiverse students. This will especially be important due to recent controversies such as treatment of children with autism by schools and the HSE.

On the more technical side I want to organise the potential return to in-person activity in the ISSU. The pandemic has brought us completely online, and it's worth looking at adapting to a mix of in-person and online meetings for the NSE in the future. In general I want to examine technical aspects of the running of the union and to propose reforms if they would be of benefit. While most of this is in some sense proactive, I will of course effectively perform my main duties of organising meetings and maintaining minutes, the latter of which haven't been published in months, I will get this back on track.

I have the sufficient skills and experience to fulfil this role and contribute to this union, please ask me any questions you may have as I can go into better detail.

MANIFESTO

My Manifesto

Follow My Campaign
and Ask Me Anything



VOTE 1

Eoin Connolly for
Secretary



@Eoin4Secretary



Why I'm Running:

I'm passionate about student issues and want to do my part for this union. I'm running for Secretary as it's the role that I can do best. This role will allow me to help with the smooth running of the NSE while providing advice on issues I'm interested in and knowledgeable on.

Relevant Experience:

I've done various relevant activities that make me right for this role. Within school I've done Debating, Philosophy, MUN and Global Schools, while outside of school I'm currently Secretary of Limerick Comhairle na nÓg. In all of these I've engaged in and convened debates on important issues, I want to do that here, because this time I can have a real and significant impact for my peers.

What I Want To Do For This Role

- **Transparency + Accessibility:** I will work with the new disability officer to implement the new accessibility guidelines on publications under my remit. Minutes of NSE meetings haven't been published in 7 months, I will get this back on track.
- **Advisory role:** My interests and experience will allow me to provide effective support to my fellow officers, While I will maintain impartiality in my technical duties I will give honest advice when appropriate and seek to make our actions the best they can be.
- **Organisation:** I want to use my organisational skills to improve the smooth running of the NSE and help guide the transition back to some in-person meetings. The past year the pandemic has forced us to do things differently in ISSU, now, as restrictions hopefully ease, we will have to adapt once again, deciding how meetings will be done this year, potentially doing a mix of in-person and online meetings.

Some Issues/Campaigns I Want to Work On

- **LC-2022:** If elected I will be in 6th year for my term so I will obviously have a vested interest in this. With the controversy surrounding LC 2020 and concerns for future exams, I want to serve my peers and do my best to safeguard our immediate future.
- **Disability+SEN:** I want to help the new Disability Officer with their work, especially pertaining to neurodiverse students. I was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome/ADHD when I was 5, and I want to help in whatever way I can. Recently highlighted issues such as geographical/class disparity in access to SEN and HSE dossiers on children with Autism have been especially close to my heart.

RÚNAÍ

SECRETARY

EVAN O'CONNELL

Coláiste Choilm Ballincollig

5th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Evan O'Connell, I am an 18 year old student from Ballincollig, Co. Cork and I am delighted to be running for Runai/Secretary of the Irish Second-Level Students Union. I am absolutely over the moon to be contesting this election on my schools behalf and cannot wait to get going. My interests are in the realm of Scouting, Musical Theatre and Politics (an unlikely lot, I know). I am so passionate about Youth Voice and the change that it can unlock and truly believe that anything is possible when passionate young voices put their heads together, and something I know that as part of the NSE we can strive towards effective change within the student activism circuit in Ireland.

I have been a Scout now for over 11 years and if it has taught me anything it is that the power of young people and the weight of our voices is truly much much stranger than we can imagine. I've lived and went to school in my community of Ballincollig for the past 12 years and throughout my time on Colaiste Choilm's Student's Council I have learned that when you listen you learn; and this is a quality that I hope I can bring to the NSE; in being able to listen to and to learn from the ISSU membership.

PAST EXPERIENCE

- National Secretary - Scouting Ireland Youth Representatives - 2019-2020
- Chairperson - Colaiste Choilm, Student's Council - 2018-2021
- Secretary - Colaiste Choilm, Students's Council - 2017-2018
- National Team Lead for Cub Scouts - Scouting Ireland - 2021-present
- Former Chairperson - Cork County Comhairle na nOg - 2019
- Provincial Secretary - Scouting Ireland's Southern Province, Youth Representatives - 2018-2020
- County Secretary - Scouting Ireland's, Lee Valley Scout County, Youth Representatives - 2018-2020
- Founder and CEO of IMUN Ireland (Now Ceased operations)

MY PLANS

If elected to the NSE among strengthening the relationships both between the NSE and the ISSU membership and the NSE and Irish Society; I would like to accomplish 3 main Goals of which I will outline:

1. ISSU Reform: Along with a review of Governance structures within the ISSU and the continued support of the Constitutional reform Group and MAC, I believe that the NSE should engage in a full scale review of ISSU procedure and Structures and engage with the ROB and member schools to map the effectiveness of the Union and see if with Governance changes and reform that improve to can be made.
2. Senior Cycle Reform: Due to COVID-19 the window to Senior Cycle reform has never been as wide open. We as Students are presented with a Unique Opportunity to engage with all educational partners, most importantly students; and move forward with both legislative measures and other movements to ensure the reform of the Senior Cycle is to the benefit of Students.
3. Vote at 16: Now more than ever, Young people are getting more engaged in politics at a young age; It is the belief of the Union that Voting at 16 should be the Norm for Local, National and European Election. I believe that we can use the ISSU's Standing in society to further the cause of the Vote at 16 Campaign

MANIFESTO

EVAN O'CONNELL FOR ISSU SECRETARY



GET TO KNOW ME

Hey there, my name is Evan O'Connell from Colaiste Choilm In Cork. I am asking you to consider me for your Number 1 Vote for Secretary of the Irish Second Level Students Union. I'm 18 years old and have been a student activist since I was 16. I'm really passionate about politics, music and Scouting. I can't wait for Annual assembly and hope that I can secure your vote to be your Secretary.



EXPERIENCE

- National Team Lead for Cub Scouts (Scouting Ireland - 2021 - present)
- Former Secretary to the National Youth Representative Team (2019 - 2020)
- Speaker at Child Talks 2020
- Chairperson of Colaiste Choilm's Student Council (2017 - present)

MANIFESTO ISSUES

Executive Restructuring

I believe that the ISSU is capable of become a major player at the level of Student Activism and Educational and Curricular Development. I believe we could improve our working abilities by moving to a project team system that work under each of the NSE officers rather than individually sources working groups for each issue that the ISSU decide to tackle

Growth of the Union

As of March 2021 the ISSU has over 400 member schools. I believe it should be a priority of the NSE to build the Union to try And accommodate all Second level institutions in The Republic. This would be a major asset to the union as a whole and would provide a more diverse base on which we draw our representation of all second level students. I believe we can do this by engaging with the National Principles and Deputies Union along with National Teachers Unions.

HOW TO REACH ME:

Email: evanoc4change@gmail.com
Insta: [evan4change](https://www.instagram.com/evan4change)

PERSONAL REFERENCES

Simply put I want to be your ISSU Secretary in order to create a more diverse and inclusive Union. Using my past Secretarial experience and knowledge of the youth Development Sector to make this happen

COVID Relevant Education / Senior Cycle Reform Process

I wish to put significant NSE focus on COVID Relevant Education and the Senior Cycle reform process. I believe that the ISSU is at a point of no return when it come to post COVID education and senior cycle reform. As your secretary I will ensure that student voice is the driving factor of change in the reform process.

RÚNAÍ SECRETARY

GEARÓID O'DONOVAN

St. Augustine's College
5th Year



ABOUT ME

Hello everyone! My name is Gearoid O Donovn(He/Him). I am a 6th year student from Dungarvan, County Waterford. I am Passionate about ensuring students are the strongest lobby group in education.

My campaign has three main pillars: Engagement, Support and National Policy. These are backed up by my experience and commitment to student voice

1. I have a tremendous amount of experience to bring to the role. I was the 2019/20 ISSU Education Officer during the discussions with the Department of Education around the cancelling of the 2020 Leaving Cert. I will use this experience and knowledge to bring the highest standards to the role.
2. I will engage with students to ensure the work of the Union is representative of their beliefs. As the Union grows we must ensure we don't become detached from students. This can be achieved by working with School reps from each member school and the regional officers from each ISSU region when designing campaigns.
3. I will design supports for student council secretaries to help them carry out their roles and ensure that all student councils run for the betterment of students. I will ensure NSE minutes are available on the Union Website promptly after all meetings and are included in the monthly newsletter. I will support the work of all the Union's elected Officers and Working Groups to advance the voice of students in their education. Helping the union to deliver impactful campaigns.
4. I will work on Policy formation to ensure students are represented in areas such as Leaving Certificate reform, Board of Management and Vote at 16.

I am asking for you to back my experience and vision for the role and Vote Gearoid O Donovan #1 for Secretary

PAST EXPERIENCE

Having been involved in many organisations I have a large and diverse range of experience to bring to the role. The skills I acquired from this will allow me to carry out the role to the best of my ability and maintain the highest standards within the organisation. My internal experience means I am aware of how the union operates and can gain the most from the role for students.

- 2019/20 ISSU Education Officer.

I was a member of the NSE that Coordinated the 'Clarification Now' campaign which saw the cancellation of the 2020 Leaving Certificate and laid the ground for this year's adjustments.

I organised the 'Empathy for Emergencies' campaign, calling for students undergoing medical emergencies to be allowed to delay state examinations. This included making a submission to the State Exams Commission.

I also wrote a submission for the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment as part of their Leaving Certificate review.

- ISSU Debate your Decision Maker Munster Organiser.

Organised the Munster session of 'Debate your Decision Maker' event. Which brought young people and decision makers together to speak about sustainability.

- 2 Active years on Waterford Comhairle na nÓg

Worked on two campaigns.

1. 'Waterford Day' a day to celebrate multiculturalism of Waterford.

2. 'No Fear of the Other' a video to challenge the use of stereotypes in society.

Represented Waterford Comhairle at many national events including Dáil na nÓg, National Showcase and the Department of Health consultation.

- 2 terms as School Student Council Chairperson

This has given me leadership experience within the school and seen the school becoming actively involved in ISSU after I lobbied management to register as a member school.

- No Name Club National Youth Council

- Spunout.ie South East action panel member

MY PLANS

If elected I would carry out three main pledges to Engage, Support, and represent students in National Policy.

Engagement: The Union has seen huge growth over the last two years in terms of active engagement and membership. We must ensure that as we grow we continue to represent and engage with our grassroots. We must empower student Councils to represent students at a local level and ensure schools work for all students at all times.

Support: I will work with students from across the country to design and circulate resources for student councils to allow them to represent students fully and allow their officers to work efficiently. I will also make NSE minutes available online promptly after all meetings and have them included in the monthly newsletter to improve accessibility. I will work with the whole NSE and organisation to continue the growth seen in recent years and provide students with the best quality representation at all levels.

National Policy: I will continue the Union in the area of activism in areas such as Vote at 16, Leaving Certificate Reform, and furthering the voice of students in their education. As the largest stakeholders in education students need to be the loudest voice.

I am making these promises to deliver a representative Union that works for Students and ask you to vote Gearoid O Donovan for your #1 Secretary.

MANIFESTO



Gearoid O Donovan for Secretary

About Me!

Hi everyone. I am Gearoid O Donovan, a 6th year from Dungarvan, Waterford. I have been working in activism throughout all my secondary school years

Experience

- 2019/20 ISSU Education Officer
- 'Debate your Decision Makers' Working Group
- 2 term Student Council Chairperson
- Waterford Comhairle na nÓg
- Spunout.ie South East Action Panel

Engagement

1. Put students at the heart of the Union and all its work
2. Assist Regional Officers in running regional campaigns
3. Empower ISSU School Representatives

Support

1. Design templates for student councils.
2. Include NSE minutes in Monthly newsletter
3. Support all NSE officers to deliver campaigns

National Policy

1. Continue the Unions work on Vote at 16
2. Represent students in Leaving Certificate reform discussions

Working for you!

WELFARE OFFICER

OIFIGEACH LEASA

BEN CONNOLLY

Belvedere College

5th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Ben Connolly, I'm a 17 year old 5th year student from Dublin. Honestly I wasted the first 15 years of my life. I avoided conflict was shy, hidden and confused (still am at times) I was adamant to be an athlete and spent very little time considering anything else. My first 3 years in School were a nightmare. I wasn't being me. I was pretending to get on with people I despised listening to them and their offensive comments. All I was doing was trying to be the same as everyone else and not stand out but that's what was wrong that's not who I am.

In 2nd year I was diagnosed with many disabilities and conditions such as Sleep Apnea, ADHD, Dyspraxia, Dysgraphia and many more. My proudest achievement is that despite these labels and obstacles I didn't change. I didn't see these as a problem. I had lived for 14 years and gotten on OK why should that change. Thanks to this realization I grew confident and proud of who I was but decided to change I knew something was wrong but the problem was finding out what and what I wanted to do. Luckily I matured and started developing and improving. I became more confident and interested in helping people. This change is why I'm here today even considering a role like this. I feel guilty for not doing more up to now and now that I have this opportunity to really make some change and make up for those years I've wasted I have to do my best to take it. I don't want to be just someone who grew up like everyone else I want to make a mark and I feel that this position is my best way of doing so.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I've tried to get involved in as much as I can. I play a lot of sport which has provided me with passion, drive and responsibility but at the same time has also taught me humility and the feeling of losing. Humility has taught me a valuable skill in being able to accept that I'm wrong and try again and not give up. I am currently the Head of my student council. I am currently one of the Regional Officers for Dublin City which has given me the opportunity to test out my skills and gain experience within the union. I have tried to get involved and do as much as I can within the union but I want to do more. In December of 2019 I set up a volunteer initiative called SoupRunDublin where we give tea coffee and support to the homeless in Dublin City Centre.

This is my biggest achievement it was the first big step in becoming the person I am today. When Covid hit last year we were forced to stop. This killed me. I realised then that my passion wasn't for sport or music it was for helping people. I decided to see who else I could help and set up a shopping programme with my local SuperValu where I would do the shopping for the vulnerable in my local area. Being able to help these people was my way of making change. All of these experiences and many more that I simply don't have the space to go into have made me the person I am today providing me with all of the skills I possess and that would make me able to bring my all to the role.

MY PLANS

Like Alexander Hamilton says "there's a million things I haven't done, but just you wait" I feel the same way. Considering the current time I think if elected to welfare officer my top priority would be to increase the support for students. There are many students struggling right now who need support yes there are a wide range of supports available but many students would find it difficult to reach out for help. What I love to see is students supporting students. We have no idea what can be going on inside someone's life or how they feel. But we can offer our help. I would like to reach out to students rather than guidance councillors and support services to encourage them to support their peers. It's as simple as saying "hey how's it going?" Those 4 words could be the key to the lock of someone's fears and issues. As well as this I would like to encourage school supports such as chaplains and guidance councillors to make themselves more accessible for students the most important thing here would be communication and working with guidance councillors and students to see what is effective. The most important thing for any work I will do is communication.

Communication will allow me to ensure that my work is as to as high a standard as possible. I definitely don't know everything and will need to communicate to make sure what I do is the best thing for students. If I go in with only my goals in mind I may end up missing an opportunity to make change. So overall I want to bring my goals and achieve them but to also do my job and make sure that I'll be representing students accordingly and doing my best for them.

MANIFESTO

Ben Connolly for Welfare Officer

A 5th year Student from Dublin City
looking to make a difference

Making sure we all have
someone to lean on



S

Support: I want to ensure that students have enough support. If Covid has taught us anything it is that it is ok to ask for help. If elected I will engage with key organizations, to assess and work on the support available for students and to make sure that a high standard of support can be maintained for all.

P

Prevent: Issues like bullying do huge damage to school environments. There simply isn't enough work being done on tackling these issues and I feel like it could be an area that I could really make a difference in, having worked on an Oireachtas submission on the DES anti-bullying policy.

I

Improve: School environments have taken a huge toll because of Covid and the atmosphere is completely different now. As we exit lockdown it's time to rebuild and mould a new & improved school experience. I would intend to work with students on finding ways to do this such as promoting the formation of clubs and societies.

C

Communicate: The most important thing for any officer going forward is communication. If elected I will make sure to communicate with Students, Organizations and other officers as much as possible to make sure I am doing the best job I can do while also providing a platform to allow room for collaboration and suggestions to allow more students get involved.

E

Encourage: Possibly the simplest but also strongest goal of mine is to encourage. I'm blown away by the Student leaders in this country but I still believe there are more out there who just need that nudge to step up and support their peers. By communicating with students I will be able to encourage students to have the confidence to push for change. Together we can improve the lives of students.

WELFARE OFFICER

OIFIGEACH LEASA

SASKIA EIFFE

St. Clare's College

5th Year



ABOUT ME

Hello! I'm Saskia (Sas), I'm 18 years old and a sixth year student in St. Clare's College in Cavan. I have been involved in ISSU since February of 2020 when I became the first school rep in Cavan and then moved onto becoming the first RO of Cavan, and have been working ever since to promote ISSU in my region. I'm hardworking, determined, loving and passionate. I've been a youth activist since I was 12 years old and fell in love with everything to do with student politics. I want to try make the world for myself and future generations a place where everyone can be themselves and have a place they can belong, but there must be co-operation between each and every person, and I believe that this can start in a union.

Young people deserve to be heard, listened to and respected and I will not stop fighting until young people are heard. I love this union and can't wait to see the next NSE, whether I am on it or not, I am excited to see the future of our (not so little) union.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I have always been of the belief that every person deserves equal opportunities regardless of gender, sexuality, race or religion, we are all people. In 2015 I was elected to my local Comhairle na nÓg at the age of 12, nearly 7 years later I am still an active and participating member, I have attended three cross border programmes with young people from north and south of the border to discuss issues that affect us all. I am also a long time serving member of the Cavan Comhairle steering group which aids with the running of the Comhairle as well as serving as PRO for a term.

I have been a prefect twice before in second and fifth year and this year I was elected by my peers as one of the senior prefects of my school, as well as that I am also the chairperson of my student council for the year and I am the reason our student council remains active as we were threatened to lose it for the year due to COVID but I suggested that it be moved online, keeping the student voice in my school intact.

As an Irish Girl Guide since 2014 I have been instilled with the virtues of equality, lifting each other up and honesty, in 2018 I was selected to represent Ireland at the first ever Georgian Girl Scouts international camp.

was elected school rep for my school last February, selected for the Equality team in September, joined the Regional Sustainability working group in September and became an elected Regional Officer at Regional Council in November. I am an experienced EYPer and have attended several sessions. I am in the process of setting up Ireland's first group for children of the Defence Forces.

MY PLANS

If I were to be elected to the NSE I would work for the students of Ireland and the students of Ireland only. I firmly believe that elected officials MUST listen to their representatives and work to help and uplift them and not to their own agenda. I want to create a manifesto that will help and benefit the students of Ireland, I want to be approachable, transparent and I want to be held accountable for my actions and for my promises. I will devote my term to helping the students of Ireland and creating a more positive, non-toxic work environment for those inside and out of the union.

The youth of Ireland have a voice and it has been proved over and over again that it is a powerful voice that deserves to be heard, I want to ensure that these students feel heard by any means necessary (safely obviously) I want to use my position and connections that I have gained over the years to allow the union to become more open and accessible for all second-level students. Being an NSE officer is not something I would take lightly and I would hold my position in the highest regard, if elected I would work for the students, I am their representative, they tell me what to do and what they need. I would bring a passion to the NSE that I believe has been missing for a while now.

MANIFESTO

My Manifesto



My name is Saskia Eiffe, I'm an 18 year old sixth year from County Cavan.

I have been involved in activism since the age of 12 and have been a member of Irish Girl Guides, Comhairle na nÓg, and many more organisations and grassroots. I am the current Regional Officer of the Cavan/Monaghan region.



saskia4welfare

> I aim to work with the Education and Equality Officers to reform the current RSE course with particular emphasis on LGBTQ+ RSE.

> I want to compile and create easily accessible resources for students to help them learn how to cope with stress and anxiety.

> I will pressure the Seanád and Dáil to pass the Period Products bill, every person who needs them should have access to period products. I will constantly lobby elected officials through communications and media until the bill is passed.

> The conversation of contraception in Ireland needs to be modernised and I will bring it to the forefront, educating every student on contraception and safe sex by creating the information needed which can be accessed anytime and not just in a doctors office or classroom.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability is needed in every elected official position and is something I take incredibly seriously. I ask the students of Ireland to hold me accountable of my actions and to make sure I keep my promises that I am making to them. The students will be voting who they believe will be the best in the position and I ask that if I am elected that the students hold me accountable in the highest regard.

APPROACHABILITY

I want you to be able to email me at any time and voice your concerns. Welfare concerns EVERYONE and I want to have an open channel of communication with the students of Ireland. Your concerns are my top priority and to be an effective Welfare Officer I NEED to hear from the students.

TRANSPARENCY

I want to keep the students I will be representing in the loop in terms of Welfare. I will have a bi-monthly welfare update published on the ISSU website which any student can access and keep up to date. Students deserve to know what the person they have voted into office is working on.

Welfare Officer FOR Irish Second-level Students

WELFARE OFFICER

OIFIGEACH LEASA

LILY O'DOWD

Kingswood Community College

1st Year



ABOUT ME

Hi! I'm Lily I am a 1st year from KingswoodCC Dublin. From a very young age I have been interested in acting and the arts. Performance public speaking and getting my word across has been something that I have been doing since a very young age. Leadership creativity and teaching are skills that I have and this opportunity could help bring them further. I have a few goals one of my goals is in mental health and helping people understand that is ok and to talk and figure out a way to lessen these extreme worsening of mental health in examination year and for students in general. Another big goal of mine is in showing that difference is ok and that being your self is ok and there shouldn't be any guidelines saying what and who you should and shouldn't be and I have made a big push to place this in my school and I would like to spread this over a wider range.

Mental health has been something that I have taken an interest in over the last while since I have started in the issue and preparing students for life outside of school. Students in examination years and in general suffer with mental health some on a smaller scale or extreme but all so important I want to make a change on a wider scale in solving and preparing students for this. I know that my voice can make a change and I want to show others no matter how small you think your problem is it should be heard and looked upon that's something I stand strongly by. Mental health is one of my main focus. I want to make a difference and to show others if we try we can.

PAST EXPERIENCE

As a first year I have been involved in the LGBTQ+ community in my school as an alliance to make sure their voices are heard and they aren't discriminated upon and it's a safe place to express yourself. I am a leader in the drama club in my school in putting together productions these two projects alone have given me a great deal of leadership skills. I have also taken part in stage school for over 9 years now and have gained a great deal of creative thinking and new ideas to evolve.

Student council and now being an issue rep for my school has shown me how to teach and learning and how to spread my point across. I have gotten involved with the eco club in my school and I have attended the issue debate you decide which covered the sustainability goals for 2030.

I am fully committed and involved with everything I do and I have many skills speaking is my main one I am also in an Amazon challenge to invent an app to help show that girls can also do coding because it's normally classified as a mainly male dominated thing and I want to show different. I do many other quizzes such as the the bank of Ireland money smarts challenge. I want to put my skills I have gained into the nse and be able to gain more skills and build on the ones I already have. I am involved with every issue event I can attend. I am ready to commit and learn and I am ready to bring my skills in leadership creativity and education to the nse.

MY PLANS

In the nse I would be interested to achieve a platform for students to express their mental health because I have done research and most students in examination years and just in general struggle with mental health some extreme some less but all equally as important and I know I can make change by reducing stress and tension throughout schools and hopefully lessen the mental health crisis school can cause at times.

One of my main goals is to let schools know that students aren't prepared to go into the world most don't know how to pay taxes or do basic things and the world then can become a scary place and students should be given the opportunity to learn how to get there and do things like get jobs pay taxes how to budget how to cook basic things that most don't know when they leave. A big thing I would like to push on is that personal hygiene products should be free in schools because it would reduce incidents and give learners things that they need to focus so they are less scared that they will have nothing it isn't a choice people make it's natural schools should help provide these essentials these should be sent out to schools by the government once or a few times a year so learner can keep in the education and have the supplies they need. I want to make school a more helpful and more secured place that you can just and be your self.

MANIFESTO



LILY O'DOWD

NSE

THE BEST PLACE IS THE CRAZIEST PALCE

I AM WILLING TO WORK THE HARDER TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS I HAVE SET FORWARD AND SHOW PEOPLE NO MATTER HOW YOUNG YOU ARE THAT YOU CAN BE DETERMINED AND GET WHAT THEY SAID THEY WOULD GET I WANT TO REPERSENT ALL YOUNG VOICE AND ACHIE MY GOALS .

HI! I AM LILY O DOWD

I am thirteen years old I attended kingswood community college as a first year . My main areas of interests are in performance art arts and mental health and expanding my knowledge to help other .

THINGS I COULD CHANGE OR IMPROVE

- 1 easy set up guide to sign up and register for events and more people could join
- 2 le things more direct in the sign up stage and when running for placement
- 3 have more icebreakers and music in longer sessions

AIMS EVENTS AND PROJECTS

1. A WELLBEING NIGHT HOSTED ONCE A MONTH WITH MUSIC GAMES ICEBREAKER AND BONDING ACTIVITEYS
2. TO DESIGN A PROGRAM THAT WILL TEACH STUDENTS BASIC LIFE SKILLS LIKE HOW TO PAY TAXES COOKING TO PREPARE THEM
3. AN AIM TO MAKE SCHOOL BE MORE GENDER NEUTRAL E.G THEY HAVE ONE NON GENDERED BATHROOM
4. TO HAVE SCHOOLS SUPPLY FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS
5. TO START A PROJECT WHERE STUDENTS CAN SEEK HELP IF STRUGGLING WITH A EATING DISORDER AND SPREAD AWARENESS

MY GOALS

1. TO MAKE STUDENTS FEEL PREPARED TOFACE LIFE
2. LEARN AND GROW IN MYSELF
3. REDUCE STUDENTS STRESS AND ANXIETY

experience

As a first year my experience have been in getting our school have a non gendered uniform , designing a wellbeing plan for wellbeing week, I was involved in lgbt+ club in our school seeing how I can make our school gender neutral . I have also experienced raising money to help aobhinns pink tie .

WELFARE OFFICER

OIFIGEACH LEASA

MATTHEW RYAN

St. Francis College

6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Matthew Ryan and I'm a 6th-year student from Cork re-running to be your Welfare Officer of 2021-22!

I have had a passion for the advocacy of student welfare for a number of years now. I began by working on a local level and in my own school. I organised and undertook projects such as the "Amber Flag" initiative, organising Metal Health week, working with my Board of Directors to create up to date student welfare policies.

I believe welfare is more than just an in-school, education issue. Welfare is about students lives and the quality to which they can live them. School is an already immensely confusing and stressful time for young people. We need a system that gives us more than just academic knowledge. We need a comprehensive and inclusive Relationship and Sexuality Education that gives students the necessary tools to discover their own sexual identities. We need a holistic and diverse approach to physical education instead of just telling us students that we can only play one or two different sports in a year.

We also need to reform our mental health support systems in schools, in particular our referral system. Students need to be taught how to handle the stress and pressure that comes with secondary school. Our education system should help students build a strong mentality and then help them maintain it. We also need proper care and help when we struggle with our mental health. Students should not be placed on month long waiting lists before they can see a psychologist.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I have lots of experience and values that I could bring to this program.

I was elected to the ISSU NSE as Welfare Officer at the 2020 Annual Assembly. Since then, I've worked on many projects. I set up a Period Poverty Working Group near the start of my term. This group has worked throughout the year to help lobby for the provision of free period products in schools around Ireland. They have met with TD's and senators and have produced a survey that is to be launched nationwide.

I also set up the unions first "Welfare Team" who have worked with me on projects such as our Oireachtas Submission on Bullying and its impact on student mental health.

I'm currently in the process of becoming a Text50808 crisis support volunteer which will give me a deeper understanding of the issues facing students and the tools I'll need to tackle these.

I was elected as my schools student councils secretary 2018-19 and then elected as president 2019-20.

I was also elected as my schools Meitheal team chairperson 2019-20. meitheal is a program all about contributing to and improving the welfare of fellow students in my school.

I have achieved both bronze and silver Gaisce Awards.

MY PLANS

I have many plans for the role of Welfare Officer.

I will work with the Institute of Guidance Counsellors to lobby the government for a complete reform of our referral system in second-level schools. The current system is outdated and ineffective. I will strive to ensure that student voice is at the heart of this process as only students know what we need.

I want to establish a "Welfare Ambassador Scheme" with the ISSU. This would be an award program that students can apply for and be trained in ways they can improve the welfare of their fellow students in their own schools. I hope to create a network of Welfare Ambassadors across the country who will be empowered to work with their schools to improve their peers' lives.

I will continue to work with the Education Officer to input into the RSE Curriculum reform. I want to continue working with organisations like the NCCA and Active* Consent towards the improvement of our sexual education in Ireland.

I want to create a series of welfare resources that will be available to students. These will take different forms, such as short videos or flyers. These will contain the information that students need. Things like "What are my rights as a worker?", "How do I get tested for STD's?", "Where can I go if I feel I need help with my mental health?" and many more.

MANIFESTO

MATTHEW FOR WELFARE

YOU MATTER
WITH MATT

WHO AM I?



I'm an 18 year old leaving cert student from Cork. I've been involved with ISSU for over a year. I've been involved in student advocacy for the last few years, particularly in the area of student welfare.

MY EXPERIENCE

- ISSU Welfare Officer 2020-21
- Oireachtas Submission on Bullying
- Text50808 Crisis Support Volunteer
- Student Council President 2019-20
- See socials (@matthew4welfare) for more of my experience!

MY POLICY

1. Setting up a "Welfare Ambassador" scheme

- This would be a national programme designed to train students interested in Student Welfare Advocacy. These students would then work to make a positive impact locally in their schools and communities. At the end of the year, they would be awarded a cert from the Welfare Officer for successfully undertaking the role of a Welfare Ambassador.

2. Work to Reform the Referral System.

- The current referral system in Ireland is failing students. Students who need help urgently due to struggles with mental health are being put on ridiculously long waiting lists before they are referred to a professional to get the help they need. This is unacceptable and students deserve better. I will work with the Institute of Guidance Counsellors to lobby the government for a reform of the referral system.

3. Working with Active Consent + RSE Reform

- I want to continue working to maintain ISSU's very strong relationship with the NUI Galway based research program "Active* Consent". I want to work to continue building and furthering this relationship. This also leads into my plans for RSE Reform. We are in dire need of an RSE curricular reform. Students need accurate and realistic education on sex, sexuality, gender, relationships and everything else RSE.

4. Welfare supports for Gaelcholáistí

- It is vitally important that gaelcholáistí are not left out when it comes to the provision of resources. I will work with the Oifigeach na Gaeilge to ensure that all of the resources I produce are available bilingually for the students who may need them. I will also work to lobby the NEPS and DES to produce their Student Welfare resources fully bilingually.

5. Student Workers Rights

- Many second-level students around the country hold jobs. These students need to know what their rights are in the workplace and how they can protect themselves. I will run a campaign that will aim to raise awareness on student workers rights and ensure that students are safe in the workplace.

SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH INBHUANAITHEACHTA

JAMES HURLEY

St. Francis College

5th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is James Hurley, I am a fifth year student from St. Francis College, living in county Cork. I am 17 years old and this is a little bit about me. I have always been surrounded by dogs, Their company has always been a calming presence where I can express my love for animals. I have always been drawn to working in a team, where that be on the pitch playing hurling or online playing on an esports team, I have played hurling since fifth class and have always taken the game in my stride.

Working with a team from a young age gave me much needed maturity and I learned a lot about teamwork. I have applied these skills in the online world by also playing on an esports team at a decent level. In both these cases communication and empathy were very important, because of this I know I have some vital skills to bring to the role. In my downtime I enjoy reading, I have recently finished the Hobbit and intend on reading more from Tolkien in the future. For me the spice of life really is new experiences. I have wanted to do more for my global and local community and I feel sustainability in the ISSU is where I can really have an amazing time and hone my skills.

PAST EXPERIENCE

As mentioned before I always seek new experiences, I feel that life has so much to give I could try something new every day forever and I'd never been satisfied. In relation to sustainability, a small few things come to mind. I have taken an interest in my student council the last couple of years, and despite the pandemic, I feel we managed to keep up some great work.

Related to the student council I was on the school policy review board I was given the chance to positively change the school. I feel my work on the green school in conjunction with the student council allowed me to create a real impact in the school and with one more year left I feel I'm in a great position to build on what I have already accomplished.

Outside of school I also took care of my community, by being involved in the Tidy town's initiative I got to see the impact of climate change and I got to do a small bit to clear my local area of debris.

This opportunity was given during my time doing gaisce. I thoroughly enjoyed pushing myself to learn new skills and help my community in new ways. At the moment I am going for my silver gaisce and I am developing my skills in photography where you can really show the impact of climate change and the need for sustainability.

I am very passionate about biodiversity, I have worked on a bumblebee monitoring scheme where we analyze the local bee population. I have worked with environmental scientists to try and understand better what my school can do for local biodiversity. These two experiences really have come together to teach me so much about sustainability.

MY PLANS

I have always said better busy than bored, So as a sustainability officer I would get to work straight away on the online space, I would love to find a way to give students a way to collaborate between schools by sharing their finished projects, This way if a school was to ask their student council to come up with ideas there will be a few ideas with details on how it was done. I would also offer recorded talks and training to schools. I have contacts in the sustainability industry who would be happy to help with this. I would also try and promote sustainability by having events and competitions and other initiatives for students.

I would also make sure that anything discussed by the committee would have sustainability and climate awareness at its core. It is simply not enough to include the environment at the end of decisions. When creating a change climate needs to be the first consideration, this not only makes the process/action easier, it makes it better for all of those involved. It is only through hard work and determination that we will be able to make impacts on the climate, I feel every decision has its own effect on this issue, I would make sure it's always the first point raised.

MANIFESTO



James Hurley For ISSU Sustainability Officer

If You Cannot **Reduce**
Then **Reuse**

#James4Sustainability

About Me

Hello, My name is James Hurley I am a 5th-year student at St Francis College. I am passionate about making Ireland more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Aims

- Provide optional school training for student councils on improving their carbon footprint
- Promote methods to increase biodiversity in a school setting
- Supporting of climate strikes arranged by students
- Promote the three Rs to towns, businesses, and other establishments
- Get schools more involved in conserving the environment through events and projects
- Lobby government to ensure that sustainable development goals are included in the geography curriculum
- I would like to make a space where students councils can share their work done by their schools and give their ideas to other schools

Experience

- Worked with environmental scientist
- Promoted and took part in the Bumble Bee Monitoring Scheme
- I take part in my local tidy towns and have built a good relationship with my town
- I have been on my green school committee for two years
- Currently the head of my student council

My Promise

If elected as your sustainability officer I promise to try my best to make sure every student's voice is heard and strive to make Ireland as sustainable as possible

SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH INBHUANAITHEACHTA

SALIM KAJANI

St. Michael's College

5th Year



ABOUT ME

Hi! My name is Salim, and my pronouns are he/him! I'm born and raised in Dublin, and my parents are from India. I have loads of hobbies - my favourite being cooking. There's nothing better than the taste of a beautifully cooked homemade meal. I also enjoy going for runs - I'm in no way shape or form fast, but I love going for a 5k before school, it really sets me up for a good day, and helps with keeping fighting fit.

Another pastime I have is watching Netflix. I can spend hours binging anything from documentaries to TV shows (currently rewatching Brooklyn 99 which is brilliant =D), A new and lovely interest of mine is poetry (reading, but more-so writing). Scribbling down awful metaphors that don't really make sense, almost-no rhyming scheme, tied neatly together with a general lack of direction, all help create the poems I write. I generally spend my weekends writing, it tends to bring a lot of inner-peace, and can really help deal with my mental health. Overall, I'm quite an extroverted person, while I do enjoy seeing friends and having the chats, I honestly prefer my alone-time more than anything else. Sin mise féin, I think? So yeah LOL <33

PAST EXPERIENCE

I had been blessed with the opportunity to get involved in Climate Activism in late-2018, and since have gathered a deep and wide experience of movement building, campaigning, sustainable development and grassroots movements. Starting off with the Schools Climate Action Network (SCAN), I gained an immeasurable amount of experience. From working on the team organising climate rallies, to speaking at them (with 20,000 people attending the largest event), I have been engrossed in the world of sustainable development through attending talks, speaking to experts, and advocating logistical solutions for some of the biggest issues facing our society today. Key to my work in Climate Action, was pushing for a change in education on sustainability - obviously due to the current second-level education system not giving the topic it's justice. This campaign involved speaking to TDs, media, and experts.

I also spoke at the RTÉ Youth Assembly, where I promoted sustainability education in the Dáil Chamber. The work put in by myself and a number of other great activists culminated into the Junior Cycle Sustainability short-course which is currently being developed by the Department of Education.

Working with SCAN allowed me to develop a better and more in-depth understanding of sustainability, why it's important, and how we can create solutions to the burgeoning climate crisis. Part of the solution links into how schools combat pollution, which is how I have been able to come across some brilliant, effective, but also subtle changes we can make to our second-level institutions.

Outside of Climate Action, I'm also a member of the European Youth Parliament and the Young Ambassadors programme, which have both embellished my interpersonal, communication, and team-building skills. My involvement in these and a number of other groups, movements, and organisations, have cultivated my experience to be what it is today.

MY PLANS

Unless you've been living under a rock (or haven't read manifesto XD), you'll know my campaign is based on the "Three Ss" - Support, Speed, and Salim. Starting off with Support, I plan to look at how we can work with you, your schools, and your organisations. From an individual level, it's vital we acknowledge the importance of sustainability. In order to do this, I intend on creating resources on Climate Justice - which is key to managing sustainability - as well as organising talks on Sustainable Development, Reduced Inequalities, Eco-Anxiety, and Intersectionality.

Looking at a larger scale, I hope to create a fully fledged document on how schools can become more sustainable. Linking in with the Green-schools programme, I want to have an all-encompassing piece which contains information on how we can turn second-level institutions into biodiversity/environmental models. Support also links in with how we can liaise with your organisations. StopClimateChaos, FriendsOfTheEarth and FridaysForFuture are all examples of some of the groups that are fighting for a more sustainable future, our cooperation will further the efforts already made.

One of my favourite campaigns running at the moment, is "Love30", which brings us to the second S, Speed. A fall in speed limits from 50kmh to 30kmh has countless environmental, health, and societal benefits, and with this in mind, I plan to push for speed limit reductions in school-zones. Working with the aforementioned groups, I hope to really engage change-makers and to take this simple yet effective jump. Last but certainly not least, we finish on S for Salim. My experience, my inspiration, and my energy make me the perfect candidate to be your sustainability officer. I really really want to represent you, and to make your voice heard in the echo-chamber of society today. Be sure to "Remember your Three Ss" :))

MANIFESTO

Sustainability Officer

Salim Kajani

'Remember the Three Ss'

My name is Salim Kajani, and I'm running for the role of Sustainability Officer for the National Student Executive of the Irish Secondary Schools Union. The following document is my policy and aims list for the upcoming electoral year.



I have more than two years of experience with Climate Action, Sustainability, and Developmental Organisations.

A union without a proper Sustainability policy is no union at all.

If elected, I will represent your Union and your views fully. Linking in with Climate Justice and Sustainable Development, I will look at how I can support the Union, second-level institutions, and individuals in a Sustainability format.

The basis of my aims are the 'Three Ss' - *Support, Speed, and Salim* :))

Policy

- A. **Climate Justice** - almost inseparable, Sustainability ties in with justice for those disproportionately affected by climate change, and looks at how we manage this imbalance,
- B. **Sustainable Development** - naturally, the 17 SDGs created by the UNDESA are all foundational to my campaign, my beliefs and my stances as Sustainability Officer,

Aims

1. Support

- a. **Supporting You** - as Sustainability Officer, my number one goal is to support the members of the ISSU with initiatives, talks and resources relating to all aspects of sustainability,
- b. **Supporting Your Student Council/School** - I hope to create a sustainability resource pack for student councils. This would be a fully fledged document looking at the steps schools need to take to become eco-models,
- c. **Supporting Your Organisations** - liaising with Climate NGOs, Trade Unions, and Lobbyist Groups, my ambition is to work with countless organisations to look at how second level institutions can develop their positive environmental impact,

2. **Speed** - unforgettably, motorists play a big role in carbon emissions. A reduction of speed limits in school-zones from 50km/h to 30km/h will lead not only to less air pollution, but a safer environment for young people to enjoy their commute to school. I plan to work with campaign groups in order to look at how we can promote a healthy school environment through this subtle change,

3. Salim

- a. **Continuing Efforts** - working off the foundation created by the preceding sustainability officer, I look to further the initiative already made,
- b. **Representing You** - last but certainly not least, in my role as Sustainability Officer, I guarantee being able to represent you and your views.

Oifigeach Inbhuanaitheachta

Salim Kajani

‘Cuimhnigh ar na Three Ss’

Salim Kajani is ainm dom, agus táim ag rith le haghaidh ról an Oifigh Inbhuanaitheachta d’Fheidhmeannas Náisiúnta Mac Léinn Aontas Na nDaltaí Iar-Bhunscoile in Éirinn. Is é an doiciméad seo a leanas mo liosta beartas agus aidhmeanna don bhliain toghcháin atá le teacht.

Tá níos mó ná dhá bhliain de thaithí agam le Gníomhaíochtaí Aeráide, Inbhuanaitheacht agus Eagraíochtaí Forbartha.

Ní aontas ar chor ar bith é aontas gan bheartas inbhuanaitheachta ceart.

Má thoghtar mé, déanfaidh mé ionadaíocht iomlán ar d’Aontas agus do thuairimí. Ag nascadh le Ceartas Aeráide agus Forbairt Inbhuanaithe, féachfaidh mé ar conas is féidir liom tacú leis an Aontas, institiúidí dara-leibhéal, agus daoine aonair i bhformáid Inbhuanaitheachta.

Is é bunús mo aidhmeanna na ‘Three Ss’ - *Tacaíocht, Luas, agus Salim* :))

Beartas

- A. **Ceartas Aeráide** - tá inbhuanaitheacht ceangailte le ceartas dóibh siúd a dtéann athrú aeráide i gcion orthu go díreireach, agus féachann sí ar an gcaoi a mbainistimid an éagothroime seo,
- B. **Forbairt Inbhuanaithe** - mar is eol, tá na 17 SDG a chruthaigh UNDESA uile mar bhunús le m’fheachtas, mo chreidimh agus mo sheasamh mar Oifigeach Inbhuanaitheachta.

Aidhmeanna

1. Tacaíocht

- a. **Ag Tacú Leat** - mar Oifigeach Inbhuanaitheachta, is é an aidhm is mó tacú le baill an ISSU le tionscnaimh, cainteanna agus acmhainní a bhaineann le gach gné den inbhuanaitheacht,
- b. **Ag Tacú le Do Chomhairle / Scoil** - Táim chun pacáiste acmhainní inbhuanaitheachta a chruthú do chomhairlí mac léinn. Is doiciméad iomlán é seo a bhreathnódh ar na céimeanna a chaithfidh scoileanna a ghlacadh chun a bheith ina n-éicea-mhúnlaí,
- c. **Ag Tacú le d’Eagraíochtaí** - ag idirchaidreamh le ENR Aeráide, Ceardchumann, agus Grúpaí Stocaireachta, is é mo uaillmhian oibriú le heagraíochtaí gan áireamh chun féachaint ar an gcaoi ar féidir le hinstiúidí dara leibhéal a dtionchar dearfach ar an gcomhshaol a fhorbairt,

2. **Luas** - gan amhras, tá ról mór ag tiománaithe in astaíochtaí carbóin. Ní amháin go mbeidh níos lú truailithe aeir mar thoradh ar laghdú ar luasteorainneacha i gcriosanna scoile ó 50cm/u go 30cm/u, ach beidh timpeallacht níos sábháilte ann do dhaoine óga taitneamh a bhaint as a gcomaitéireacht ar scoil. Tá sé beartaithe agam oibriú le grúpaí feachtais d’fhonn féachaint ar conas is féidir linn timpeallacht shláintiúil scoile a chur chun cinn tríd an athrú caolchúiseach seo,

3. Salim

- a. **Iarrachtaí Leanúnacha** - ag obair as an mbunús a chruthaigh an t-Oifigeach Inbhuanaitheachta roimhe, táim ag iarraidh an tionscnamh a rinneadh a chur chun cinn,
- b. **Ionadaíocht a dhéanamh duit** - go deireanach ach go cinnte ní ar a laghad, i mo ról mar Oifigeach Inbhuanaitheachta, geallaim go mbeidh mé in ann ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ort féin agus ar do thuairimí.

SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH INBHUANAITHEACHTA

AMY O'BRIEN

Presentation Secondary School

Mitchelstown

3rd Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Amy O'Brien and I'm a fifteen year old writer, feminist and climate activist in short. I've been delving into the systemic problems of society since I was about 8 years old but continue to grow my understanding of how we can improve that. From my enormous interest in women's suffrage, particularly Mary Wollstonecraft, I came to value education for what it was from a young age. It represents equality and opportunity in society to me but the problems within the Irish education are so prevalent which is why working in ISSU is so vital to me.

I'm a climate activist because unlike any other activism, I have to be. For the sake of our literal survival, we have to put our energy into trying to save this planet and any hope of gender, racial and economic justice. That includes schools, it includes everything.

I write because it is, in all honesty, it is a compulsion to relieve myself of babbling thoughts and emotions for my mental health but also to spread awareness, advocate and share experiences.

Working to create change in our schools is as important as change in our country because we are the society's future and, in the meantime, we spend the majority of our time in school. I love to bake, play piano and listen to music as well but my time is usually devoted to activism which is why I think I'm right for a role with ISSU.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I could bring so much to these roles because I am a chairperson in my comhairle, I've worked on environmental campaigning locally, I'm on the youth advisory panel for the children's ombudsman, hosted mental health webinars, greenschools, been to student council trainings and I've loads of experience leading and working with people. I could bring the most to the sustainability officer role as I am a Friday for Future activist with cork and Ireland as well as with Friday's for future International, the global clean up standard chartered bank campaign and the get MAPA to cop26. I'm the host of a podcast on sustainable development goals with ymca which I've led and have written articles on a range of topics, poems and stories so I am very capable of articulating my opinion.

I've spoken at countless climate events as an activist including with the national youth council of Ireland, Stop Climate Chaos, Shared Island and so on. I've worked and campaigned with Animal and Extinction Rebellion and One Future while also hosting a NYC webinar with the Future Generations Project. I'm currently working with Alicia O'Sullivan on the YMCA environmental policy and learning more about the Sustainable Development Goals with YMCA Colombia. Last year I attended the Inter-Generational Environmental Forum with guests including Michael D Higgins and I received the highest award in Girl Guiding as well as being elected to my school council.

I feel passionately about sustainability because it is the only way forward and I have so many ideas to bring on this topic to ISSU. I've lobbied TDs for on the climate bill amendments in December where I fought for just transition and lobbied TDs in the Department of Education to diversify the history education. I'm working with my own school, Cork County Library's and the Children's Ombudsman on period poverty which I think is a huge barrier to education that could so easily be addressed.

MY PLANS

As the role of sustainability officer, I would like to achieve

- Security but because climate change is a global issue, I will do as much as I can because schools count for a huge part of our society by continue to work towards better education on climate justice and the sustainable development goals, including free resources, books ect online for all students because education is key.
- Implement a plant based day of the week in canteens to explain why our diets matter and make eating less meat less daunting by making half the menu vegetarian or vegan every day. Introduce a strategy to reduce food waste and use 100% biodegradable packaging e.g. coffee cups etc.
- Promotion of bringing your own cup and cutlery to school. Ensure there is ,at very least, a small area for wild flowers all year round in each school while using herbicides and weed killers that are organic.
- Create a guide with eco friendly electricity companies and sustainable ways of heating the buildings to encourage schools to switch their energy suppliers.
- Issue a nature handbook to help students reconnect with the natural world in a very simple way with names of flowers, animals, insects and so on.
- Organize an environmental assembly with a student panel and guest panel to discuss climate change and how we fight for our futures in every school much of which I have achieved in my school and I will continue in my own activism to fight for just transition along with climate action which I believe this manifesto represents.

MANIFESTO

AMY 4 SUSTAINABILITY

MANIFESTO

ABOUT ME:

- Amy O'Brien
- 15 year old student
- activist
- Cork
- Since I joined my greenschools in primary, I have been passionate about sustainability as I've learned it is the only way forward.
- That's why I'm running for Sustainability Officer with ISSU!



Why me?

What will I do?

- I aim to continue to strongly promote ,through accessible resources and events, education on sustainability with intersectionality to raise up often unheard voices!
- Work to encourage, through campaigns, schools and student councils to implement Sustainability in new ways within their buildings
- . My ambition is to strengthen issu's commitment to sustainability as a whole
- Through a creative education on global issues; I aim to empower students to be a part of the solution and have a say in deciding the world we want in the future!

- co-chair of Cork county comhairle an nog
- host of the sustainable sleepover club podcast with the ymca
- climate activist with Friday For Future international and ireland
- editor for the fff newsletter
- organizer behind the everyone's climate resources mailing list!
- I've spoken at many events such as the cork environmental forum
- hosted webinars with the nyci
- social media graphics for the standard chartered fff campaign, youth against racism ireland, ymca and comhairle!
- dedicated,hardworking and compassionate
- period poverty working group with the ombudsman for children
- A multiplier with the European change makers academy through issu
- Sustainability is at the fore of my life, it has to be because we are in a critical time that decides our future so students need to have a say!

FORÓGRA

AMY 4 IN BHUANAITHEAS

FORÓGRA

Mar gheall orm:

- Amy O'Brien
- Dalta 15 bliana d'aois
- gníomhaigh
- Corcaigh
- Ó tháinig mé isteach i mo ghlas naíonraí sa bhunscoil, bhí mé paiseanta faoi inbhuanaitheacht mar atá foghlamtha agam is é an t-aon bhealach chun tosaigh.
- Sin an fáth go bhfuilim ag rit
- Oifigeach Inbhuanaitheachta le ISSU!



Cén fáth?

cad a dhéanfaidh mé?

- Tá sé mar aidhm agam leanúint ar aghaidh ag cur chun cinn go láidir, trí acmhainní agus imeachtaí inrochtana, oideachas ar an eolaíocht aeráide agus na spriocanna forbartha inbhuanaithe le crosbhrú
- Obair le spreagadh, trí fheachtais, scoileanna agus comhairlí mac léinn inbhuanaitheacht a chur i bhfeidhm ar bhealaí nua laistigh dá bhfoirgnimh
- Is é mo uaimhian tiomantas ISSU a neartú d'inhuanaitheacht ina iomláine
- Trí oideachas cruthaitheach ar shaincheisteanna domhanda; Tá sé mar aidhm agam mic léinn a chumhachtú le bheith mar chuid den réiteach agus guth a bheith agam maidir leis an domhan a theastaíonn uainn sa todhchaí a chinneadh!

Comhchathaoirleach Chontae Chorcaí Comhairle an Nog

Podchraoladh an Chlub Sleepover
Inbhuanaithe leis an YMCA

gníomhaí aeráide leis an Aoine don
todhchaí idirnáisiúnta agus in Éirinn
Eagarthóir don nuachtlitir FFF
Eagraí taobh thiar de liosta na n-
acmhainní aeráide atá ag gach duine!

Labhair mé ag go leor imeachtaí mar
Fhóram Comhshaoil Chorcaí
Webinars óstáil leis an CNO
Grafaicí na Meán Sóisialta don
Fheachtas Cathrach Cairte, Óige in
aghaidh Ciníochais Éireann, YMCA agus
Comhairle!

Tiomnaithe, hardworking agus
atruacha

Grúpa Oibre na Bochtaineachta
Tréimhse leis an Ombudsman do Leanaí
Iolraitheoir leis an Acadamh Eorpach um
Athrú Makers trí ISSE

Tá inbhuanaitheacht chun tosaigh de mo
shaol, caithfidh sé a bheith mar go
bhfuilimid in am criticiúil a chinneann ár

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

OIFIGEACH IDIRNÁISIÚNTA

KACPER BOGALECKI

St. Brendan's College

5th Year



ABOUT ME

Hi!

My name is Kacper Bogalecki. I'm a 5th year student currently living in Killarney, Co. Kerry. My story is a little different to most which I'll explain now.

I was born in Gdańsk, Poland. I lived there until I was 7 years old. When I was 7, I moved away to Athens, Greece. I lived there for about a year and I also attended a Polish-speaking school there. Later on, I moved to Heraklion; also in Greece, but on the island of Crete. I went on to live in England for a year and now I have been in Ireland for almost 5 years. As a result of my travels I have been afforded the opportunity to explore different cultures and ways of life.

Now, I'll tell you a bit about my interests. So with regard to future hopes and dreams career-wise, I'd love to become a doctor. The complexity of the human body and the tiny structures that make us human has piqued my interest from a very young age, and the human connection and intimacy you get with everyone you meet is simply special which is why I decided that I want to pursue this career-path. Outside of academia, I have always had a great interest in public action. I always loved participating in debates and attending Model United Nations as well as European Youth Parliament conferences among others. I am an outgoing person so I enjoy company which is why I love to participate in things as such. However, through the course of my life and the experiences I have had, I developed a love for travelling, exploring new cultures and meeting new people.

PAST EXPERIENCE

First and foremost, I am currently an ISSU Regional Officer representing Kerry. Having been involved in this organisation for the two years, I feel like I have understood what this union is about and what it can achieve in the long-run. Having had this type of experience in the ISSU is an invaluable resource to me as I feel that I have built a solid foundation for myself to progress onto and do well as an NSE Officer.

I was also a member of the ISSU's Constitutional Reform working group. Throughout the course of working

on this constitution, I learnt a lot about the detailed structures which form the ISSU and how the organisation works on a daily basis.

Having lived in four different countries, and having attended nine different schools over the course of my life, is something which I greatly benefitted from. Not only did I learn the importance of cultural acceptance and social integration, but I also learnt how different educational systems function across a multitude of schools in many different countries. This helped me build networks and connections with people and other organisations which I would not have had the opportunity to obtain otherwise. Whilst I lived in these places, I got involved in many local organisations and participated in many local, as well as international events such as Erasmus programmes and even a school strike to prevent the closure of one of the schools that I attended where I wrote, and read a letter to the Prime Minister on live television. I also got involved in many student voice promotion activities and always got involved in student councils, holding the titles of President, Vice President, Secretary and others. Having had such a broad range of international experience is one of the main reasons why I believe I could bring a lot to the role of International Officer.

MY PLANS

There are a number of things I'd like to achieve for second-level students if I get elected to the NSE.

The first time I heard about the ISSU was at a student council training provided to our school as well as our neighbouring school by Rob. Before that day, I never knew that there was a representative body for second-level students in Ireland; even when I lived in Ireland. I feel that this could be greatly improved upon. However, my goal would be to bring the ISSU into the eye of an international audience. This way the ISSU will become more known and will hence have a greater influence within the country and abroad. This could be done by simple advertising as well as participating in more international events.

Having travelled to and lived in many countries I have had first hand experience of what other nations are doing about student voice. My goal would be to use that international knowledge to implement ideas and plans from other organisations in different countries here in Ireland. I believe this would be of great benefit to our second-level students as they would get a different perspective on education.

Wider representation is something I would like to achieve as well. What I mean is for the ISSU to get involved in more events and work with more organisations internationally. Having international support would increase the ISSU's impact on here in Ireland.

As an International Officer, one of the things I would like to achieve is empowering student voice, I would do this by engaging in and creating events for young second-level students to attending and voice their opinions.

MANIFESTO



KACPER BOGALECKI

FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

WHO AM I?

Hi! My name is Kacper Bogalecki. I'm an 18 year-old student currently living in Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Over the course of my life, I have lived in 4 different countries and attended 9 different schools. Through my travels, I have learnt to communicate in English, Polish, Greek and French. I'm also a volunteer medic in the Order of Malta!



WHY ME?

Over the years, I have gained a vast amount of experience in student voice and international engagements, as well as leadership roles:

- ISSU Regional Officer
- Leader in EU Erasmus projects
- Director of Self-Sustainable Sem
- Student Council Chairperson in EU schools
- Advocated against the closure of my school by making a speech to Greek PM on live TV
- ISSU Constitutional Reform
- Cadet Corporal in the Order of Malta
- Public speaking award recipient at MUNs, debating competitions and presenting roles

WHAT CAN I OFFER?

Through my travels, I have developed connections and relationships with institutions across Europe which would help in expanding the ISSU's involvement in events and other organisations.

Because of my International, as well as ISSU experience, I believe that I have what is necessary to propel the ISSU into the future on an International front.

By engaging in and creating events for all second-level students to attend I believe I can empower students to have their voices heard internationally.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

OIFIGEACH IDIRNÁISIÚNTA

YVONNE FARRELL

Mount Sackville Secondary School

6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Yvonne Farrell and I am a sixth year student from Kildare. I am the current International Officer of ISSU. In my spare time I sew and read classics. Next year I hope to study philosophy, politics and economics in university. People would say that I'm positive, hard-working and curious person. I love discovering new ideas and meeting new people.

PAST EXPERIENCE

Last year I was elected as International Officer of the ISSU. During these extraordinary times I have had to transform the role and try to bring ISSU closer to OBESSU online only. I am also the current National Executive of Kildare Comhairle na nOg. I have been trained as an Anti-Bullying Ambassador and am a member of European Youth Parliament Ireland. In the past three years I have represented Kildare and spoken in the Dail twice and represented Ireland in the European Parliament. As International Officer last year, I have worked on OBESSU Working Groups, advised OBESSU on membership participation and am now on a Generation Climate Europe Working Group.

From my experience above it is clear I am confident and capable for this role. I would bring my years of experience and my enthusiasm to any project. My passion for fighting for student voice has led me to working in ISSU and I believe I still have a lot to contribute to this organisation.

MY PLANS

Further to the work I have achieved this year, I wish to build on the relationships I have created with other student unions across Europe. For students I would publish International opportunities for them to keep engaged and involved in ISSU. If on the NSE, I would continue to seek out other student unions to discuss our common problems and bring back alternate solutions to the NSE. For students, I will continue to engage with SAME to help us become a full member. My main goal is to eliminate the gap between OBESSU and ISSU, and the electorate we represent

MANIFESTO

DEFEND *your rights*

DEPEND *on me*

YOUR FRIEND *Yvonne Farrell*



SOCIAL MEDIA

@Yvonne4International



ONGOING WORK

- Continue ISSU's partnership with the 100 Million Campaign to help those students who are less fortunate in developing countries
- From the creation of the International Procedure Document this year, I will work to get even more ISSU representatives on international working groups
- If elected I would continue to represent ISSU within OBESSU with pride and keep the NSE and ROB updated on any projects from OBESSU
- Continue our application to the Solidarity Action Day Europe organisation

PROJECTS

- Meet with International Officers across Europe to discuss common issues
- Work with my Religion Working Group to make schools more inclusive around Ireland
- Host a World Religion's Day
- Plan to use the International Officer platform to amplify students voices in Direct Provision
- Implement the Schools of Sanctuary project in member schools with the help of the ROB
- Create Partnerships between ISSU and other International organisations/ projects based in Ireland aimed at young people.

VOTE YVONNE

- For someone passionate, hardworking and dedicated to this role
- For an experienced candidate
- For someone who will represent YOU with pride at home and abroad
- VOTE YVONNE FOR SOMEONE YOU CAN COUNT ON

EXPERIENCE

- National Executive for Kildare Comhairle na nOg
- SpunOut Action Panel Member
- Member of European Youth Parliament
- OBESSU Working Group member
- OBESSU Pool of Trainer's Trainer
- ECMA Multiplier
- Had one of the final ten recommendations presented to the Dail during the inaugural Youth Assembly on Climate Change
- Represented Ireland in the European Parliament
- ISSU International Officer 2020/2021



REGIONAL LIAISON & SUPPORT OFFICER

AN T-OIFIGEACH TACAÍOCHTA AGUS CEANGAIL RÉIGIÚNACH

MOHAMMAD NAEEM

St. Colman's College

TY



ABOUT ME

Hey! My name is Mohammad Naeem, I am a Transition Year student in St Colman's College County Mayo. I am 16 years old and very passionate about climate change and student voice. I live in a rural area where opportunities for students can be very limited. Many people can relate to me when I say one advantage of the virtual world is that you can attend any event you like without any factor, such as distance, stopping you. This led to the beginning of my ISSU journey.

From a young age I have always wanted to become an activist and to help people in any way I can. Helping people is something that I love to do no matter what the circumstances are or who the person may be. Advocating for the student voice is one of the ways I can do this. There are so many unrepresented voices in secondary schools because they are silenced or are afraid to speak up and voice their opinions. It can be a scary prospect, especially when you are on your own. I have experienced this myself and I hope to change this and encourage students to speak up and not to be afraid as you will only regret it in the long run.

In my free time I like going on walks, runs or cycles to escape from everyday life and listen to music or just reflect on the day. It is very important for everyone to take a break and to understand that taking one is okay!

PAST EXPERIENCE

Throughout the years I have gained a lot of experience that will help me make a difference in the ISSU and be the perfect candidate for the Regional Liaison Support Officer. I am extremely hard-working and very passionate about the work I do and it is always completed to the highest standard. Stemming from my involvement with the ISSU, I have also become heavily involved with the Education Working Group. I have worked closely with the Education Officer on senior cycle reform and most recently, releasing a survey on the topic. I have also been involved in many subcommittees within the working group - Such as the LCA group where we worked on releasing a survey for LCA reform. Additionally I am on the Presidential Working group and Religion Working group. This has really given me an understanding of the ISSU and what working on the NSE is like. It showed me that you need commitment, passion and determination to be able to represent the students of our nation.

I also have a lot of experience in charity and fundraising work, something I am very passionate about. I am the chairperson of the Young SVP committee and I have held multiple different fundraisers. I know what it is like organizing events and I have the experience of leading a team.

I am also involved with multiple youth organizations such as Mayo Comhairle na Nog. Alongside this, I am also a climate activist and am involved with multiple different climate organizations and projects. I am a climate ambassador and am involved with Eco-UNESCO . I have also completed a Leadership course run by Foroige where I have acquired the essential skills for this particular role.

I have gained a lot of skills and experiences from these groups that makes me the perfect candidate for this role

MY PLANS

If elected my main aim would be to do my best to make sure that the ISSU(Irish Second Level Union) is known across all rural and urban areas in Ireland and also to revive the union's name across counties where ISSU has lost engagement with member schools. This will ensure that every student is aware of the ISSU, and that they know that they do indeed have a voice. As it can be a very scary prospect standing up for your rights when alone, students will know they can reach out to the union.

Reviving the union's name across counties will ensure the union's work will reach as many people as possible and that students from across Ireland are getting involved with ISSU and making sure that their opinions are heard and valued. I would do this by ensuring that regional councils are accessible and the people chosen as delegates were rightly chosen. I would also work with the Regional Officers to ensure that the event has reached as many students as possible.

Furthermore, I would make sure that the ROB(Regional Officer Body) is given more recognition for their work. Throughout this year we have seen the ROB carry out tremendous work, but I feel they were not given adequate recognition for their hard work. I would work with the communications officer on getting more Regional Officers on ISSU social media pages. This can be a simple share of the ROs socials or getting them on the ISSU pages. I will also spread the word in schools and inform member schools of their elected Regional Officer through the ISSU representative or the student council, since few know about the ROB.I will make sure that the ROB is active. This will ensure that every student across Ireland has a voice.

MANIFESTO



MOHAMMAD NAEEM FOR REGIONAL LIAISON AND SUPPORT OFFICER



ABOUT ME

Hey! My name is Mohammad Naeem, I am a Transition Year student in St Colman's College County Mayo. I am 16 years old and very passionate about climate change and advocating for student voice.

MY GOALS

- Increase ISSU membership especially among rural areas
- I want to revive the unions name across regions where ISSU has lost engagement with member schools and students
- I will ensure that Regional Councils are accessible to all schools and that all schools in the Region are invited. This will increase engagement with ISSU and encourage non member schools to join.
- Increase engagement with student councils, I will do this by making sure the Regional Officers link in with ISSU School representatives in their region.
- I will ensure a Second-Level Student card is introduced
- I will create a guide for Student councils across the country and will ensure their voices are heard on their respective Board of Managements.
- Ensure that Students Councils are equipped with all ISSU resources
- I will make sure that Regional Officers are recognized for their exceptional work
- I will work to make ISSU Student council training is accessible and more readily available
- Continue the Google Room Grassroots Pilot Scheme across all regions
- Ensure that Junior students are more represented on the union

MY EXPERIENCE

- ISSU Education Working Group
- ISSU Presidential Working Group
- ISSU Religion Working Group
- Tusla Youth Advisory Committee
- Climate Ambassador 2021
- Chairperson of Young Saint Vincent de Paul committee
- Member of Mayo Comhairle na nOg
- Youth for Sustainable Development ECO-UNESCO
- Leadership for Life Foroige
- Member of Green Schools
- Writer on TY.ie
- European Change Makers Academy Multiplier



A VOTE FOR ME IS A VOTE FOR YOUR VOICE

REGIONAL LIAISON & SUPPORT OFFICER

AN T-OIFIGEACH TACAÍOCHTA AGUS CEANGAIL RÉIGIÚNACH

PATRICIJA RYBAKOVA

Athlone Community College

2nd Year



ABOUT ME

I'm a very patient person. I take my time at things and try have them ready in the best shape and form. I'm quite enthusiastic and try my best to work as a team and alone. I work well both ways. I've always enjoyed taking part in different clubs, groups, unions and organisations. I'm very good at public speaking and have a wide opinion on multiple subjects.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I was on the student council last year (first year) and got to be the junior mayor for my school. (We've had this sort of thing going on for the third year now) This year I was chosen as the president of the junior student council and got to go to the annual assembly for the Westmeath/Longford post primary schools. In that assembly I was chosen to represent Longford and Westmeath as a Regional officer. From there, I got to take part in numerous organisations and meet wonderful people who I work alongside during my term.

MY PLANS

I've realised that all schools are flawed. No matter how perfect they may seem, there will always be a crack that brings the students down. From my perspective, the few main issues in schools are racism, sexism and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. This breaks my heart. It's horrible to see students of different ages discriminate each other on such things. I want to bring awareness to this and try put it to a stop. We have our usual SPHE classes and they definitely mention how we could be better people and respect each other but I don't think it's enough. The society is changing and so are people. Two SPHE classes a week aren't going to help solve anything. We would try organise a weekly group event where all classes talk about their problems and they try solve them together. Not only does it bring them together as a class, but they'll understand what bring each other down and how they could help their fellow classmates. And maybe at the end of the month, a few classes could come together and repeat this once more. But this time, it's with the year group, not just their class. I see how this could benefit students and I'd love to see it in action.

MANIFESTO

I'M PATRICIJA



I'm a 2nd year from Westmeath and I'm a Regional Officer from the ISSU

I only want what's best for the students and that is a voice.

I want to be responsible for the promotion of the students perspective in regards to the respect they receive from their student council. The role of the student council is to ensure that the voice of students is listened to in the form of education, respect and support they receive.

You are apart of this too. It's all of us in front of the world. We will strive to make our student bodies complete. We will make the best of our student councils and we will do this together

I promise that as a REGIONAL LIAISON AND SUPPORT OFFICER, I will do what is best for the students. I will give them the chance they need to reach the standards they know they have and make their student body better for them, and the future students attending the schools. I want to work with these students and expand the student voice to be one with the society, changing it for the

greater.
Patricija Rybakova

REGIONAL LIAISON & SUPPORT OFFICER

AN T-OIFIGEACH TACAÍOCHTA AGUS CEANGAIL RÉIGIÚNACH

DAVID WRIGHT

Lucan Community College

6th Year



ABOUT ME

Hi! My name is David, I am 18 years old and I am hoping to be your next Student Council Support Officer. I live in Lucan, Dublin and my main interests are science, business and scouting. Within school, I have been a member of the student council since all the way back in 1st year when I didn't fully understand the importance of it. Over the years I have put a lot of work into improving my school in general which led to me becoming the chairperson. I have also been involved in many other initiatives such as the "Green Schools Committee". I believe the voice of the student has such a huge part to play in society and the pandemic has only highlighted that even more.

Outside of school, I also like to do a lot of youth activities. As of this year, I am a rover but most of our meetings have happened virtually so I unfortunately have not had the chance to explore the outside as a rover normally would. I also like to take up any opportunity that comes my way which is why you may hear me if you tune into Spin1038 or Spin South West on Saturday mornings from 9am - 10am. I also love playing the ukulele. I bought one during lockdown to take up as a hobby and it really helps me with managing stress! I recommend it to all.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I have been involved with ISSU for over 3 years now, first attending Annual Assembly all the way back in 2018. It really showed me the power students have and I have always wanted to contribute to this.

I got involved with Gaisce when I was in TY to try and promote it to other schools and represented them at an event where teachers from all over the country were present. They asked me questions about the importance of student mental health to how to get students involved in activities within school and it was a great opportunity to get to represent students on a national level.

At around the same time, I was also elected as Student Council chairperson. During my term, I completed many projects which the council had been working on for years but could never bring past the finishing line. I had a great team which always helped and supported me though. I feel the same could be said for within ISSU.

Since January, I have been a Regional Officer and have thoroughly enjoyed it. I have been able to do so much to promote students in a time of need and I truly cherish this opportunity. I have also been able to do a lot of media in this time, always trying to ensure that I express the collective students' opinions.

MY PLANS

I believe my ideas have 3 key foundations; synergy, communication and support

Synergy

I would like there to be total unity within the member schools in the way that we, as ISSU, help the individual student councils. I know it can be hard figuring out how to tackle your goals so I would like to add a section to the monthly ISSU newsletter where schools can send us in a summary of an issue they are tackling in their school and how they are doing it. Every month we would publish a few of these and if someone reading it realises their school is doing something similar, they could be put in contact and help each other out, creating a true synergy between schools as part of ISSU.

Communication

I would be the link between the National Student Executive and the Regional Officers as well as to the member schools. Recently Regional Officers have been creating networks of students that they can contact about events and opportunities and I want these to keep expanding to allow for everyone to be kept in the loop. After the success of the past town halls, it is so important to actively communicate with schools about what is happening, to help combat the uncertainty we have faced over the last year.

Support

Regional councils this year were digital which made them easy to access but when they go physical again, I want them to be as accessible as possible to all students, especially rural students who may miss opportunities because of where they live. It would also be important to help schools trying to establish their student council.

MANIFESTO

David Wright for *Regional Liaison & Support Officer*



Who am I?

I am in 6th Year and the Chairperson of my school's Student Council. I am 18 years old from Dublin who has been active in my Student Council since 1st Year.



Bring Campaigns Locally

The National Student Executive and Regional Officers plan to run many different campaigns this year. I want to help bring these campaigns into the individual schools. I can assist student councils on how to implement them.



Distribute Information

Member schools need to be kept in the loop on all matters affecting students and therefore I would create a memo on big news that the Regional Officers would distribute to these member schools.



Accessible Regional Councils

A problem we have faced before is Regional Councils not being accessible to rural students. This year, with them being online, it was much easier to access them and exercise your right to vote for Regional Officers. I want to continue having Regional Councils as open as possible. This year highlighted the importance of student voice and I want to facilitate that within the union itself.



Collaboration with other Officers

It is important to recognise that there would be opportunities to collaborate with other National Student Executive Officers. I could work with the Communication Officer to promote the Regional Officers and their campaigns that they run throughout the year. I could also work with the Education Officer to establish bonds between Regional Officers and the education stakeholders in their area.



Linking Student Council

Sometimes student councils in different areas of the countries may be working on similar issues. I would like to add a section to the website or to the newsletter which allows individual student councils to showcase what they are working on. If a school realises that they are working on the same project as another school, I could link them together thus they can share what has and hasn't worked and they can ultimately tackle the issue together with my support.



Experience

In the past, I have worked with Gaisce to represent students on a national level. The role I had was all about connecting schools to other organisations.

This year marks my 4th Annual Assembly as part of ISSU.

I am a current Regional Officer.

I have worked in smaller support based roles such as being a Cinnire in the Gaeltacht or on local Scouts committees.



REGIONAL LIAISON & SUPPORT OFFICER

AN T-OIFIGEACH TACAÍOCHTA AGUS CEANGAIL RÉIGIÚNACH

ALEX YEARSLEY

Salesian College Celbridge

5th Year



ABOUT ME

Hi my name is Alex Yearsley, I am currently a fifth year student in Salesians College, Celbridge. I am passionate about student politics and I believe I should be your next ISSU Support Officer for the various regions in Ireland. Do you believe there can be improvements made to your education? Do you feel respected by school administration? Do you think your time at school has been unfairly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic? Then I believe I'm the right candidate for you. As someone who has lived as a local, I do not feel that there has not been much opportunity or growth built in the area as living so close to the Dublin area it inhibits us from the development and growth needed. This simply isn't good enough for us and I believe a lot can be done in this role to change that. I know where I am from in Kildare has some of the largest proportion of young people living there as largely residential area and where I go to school in Celbridge actually has the highest number of young people per head in the country, due to these reasons I believe we need a strong officer to do what exactly the title states, to Support Councils within the region.

The student's movement has had a long history of activity and mobilisation and if you wish to continue this legacy with an active member of the student's movement I implore you to consider me as your Regional Support Officer for the 2021/2022 academic year.

PAST EXPERIENCE

For my experience, my involvement within the ISSU is fairly new I have only been involved since 2020 but on a local level I have been quite active within my schools student council. In school after pondering about whether or not there was a student council, I actively looked to see if there was history of one and after I realised that there was none I took it upon myself to seek out to set one up at a grass roots level, a council for the students by the students. Over my time in student council I have been able to develop a positive relationship with school management while maintaining relative autonomy and intuitive for the sake of the student body. As a student council we have managed to achieve such goals and aims as, helping to assist with student privacy, creating social media platforms for our school to boost student engagement.

I feel like as a newer member to the ISSU I can add a fresh voice along with a passion for local student issues that would be a great fit for the executive panel. If elected as your office I feel like I could provide open

communication and hold relevant conversations within our region. Particular interests of mine as a regional officer would include support for GaelScoils and providing a voice for those who usually go unheard, a dream of mine is to see a more diverse multicultural ISSU.

MY PLANS

I have many goals that I would like to reach if I am elected as our regional officer and I plan to hit the ground running as soon as I receive this role. As for the achievements I would like to create would be, a communication network to get students mobilised and active members of the students movement, I hope to support local councils in their efforts to raise certain issues, I would also love to to boost engagements by running events and socials for all of many regions in Ireland, I want to thing local issues to a national level on the executive panel. I would love local councils to invite me to meetings and at least one time in the year, within the year I would love to host a Q&A session with myself and councils in regions to inform on the work ISSU is doing to aid our localities within the region, I want students to feel heard and wish to be available for you as your Support Officer for the ISSU and different regions to do so I plan on having "Office Hours" which will be a certain amount of time set aside each week where I shall be replying to all your emails and be readily available if you wish to contact me. I believe in full accountability and as someone with a lot of local experience I understand the necessity of the ISSU.

If you want action, accountability, and activity, if you want to be heard and reached out to, and to have someone who is not afraid to stand up for you as a citizen of Kildare on a national level then delegates one last time, I implore you to vote me Alex Yearsley as your Regional Support Officer!

MANIFESTO

As your regional support officer, I want to:

- Ensure students receive a strong communication network to get students mobilised and active members of the student's movement.
- I will support regional councils in their efforts to raise certain issues.
- I am going to boost engagements by running events and socials for the Regions Nationwide.
- I want to help aid students in returning safely back to school across the Nation
- I want to bring local issues to a national level by being a member of the executive panel.
- I wish to be available to local student councils and be there to support them when needed.
- Within the year I would love to host a Q&A session with myself and councils from various regions across the country to inform on the work of the ISSU.
- I want students to feel heard and wish to be available for you as your Support Officer for the all regions to do so I plan on having "Office Hours" which will be a certain amount of time set aside each week where I shall be replying to all your emails and be readily available if you wish to contact me.
- I believe in full accountability and as someone with a lot of local experience I understand the necessity of the ISSU.
- One of my top priorities is to account for student endeavors.
- Have equal representation on an Executive level regarding sexuality, race, religion, gender identity, etc... from all regions of the ISSU, I hope to achieve this by campaigning for equality throughout the year and encourage students who would tend not to run, to run in student elections.
- Boost student engagement with the ISSU throughout the year.
- If you want action, accountability, and activity, if you want to be heard and reached out to, and to have someone who is not afraid to stand up for you as a citizen of Kildare/Wicklow on a national level then delegates one last time I implore you to vote me Alex Yearsley as your Kildare/Wicklow Regional Support Officer!

EQUALITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH CHOMHIONANNAIS

SAOIRSE EXTON

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh

TY



ABOUT ME

I'm a 15 year old climate activist from Limerick. I am in Transition Year and am a dedicated and passionate advocate for change. I believe that unity is the key to overcoming any crisis we might face, and through ensuring that the voices of young people are upheld, we can create a better and more intersectional world. Because of my past experiences, I bring both idealism and pragmatism to the table, as well as my affinity for sociology, politics and empathy. Collaboration is a vital part of ISSU, and it is my aim to unite members, Working Group members and officers so that we can operate as powerfully as possible.

PAST EXPERIENCE

For the past year, I have represented students as the Equality Officer. In my role, I worked with and for students both internal and external to the union. I liaised with various organisations, from those working with disabilities, to those working on period poverty and sexual health. I worked with student members and Regional Officers through the Vote at Sixteen, Period Products and Equality Working groups.

For over two years, I have been involved in Fridays for Future. I founded my local branch in Limerick, where I struck every Friday until the pandemic hit. My involvement highlighted me to the fact that this Ireland and the world is not a just country and does not follow the principles of climate justice.

I have been trained in empathy by the organisation Narrative 4, I was a 2020 Climate Ambassador, a former Public Relations Officer for Limerick Comhairle na nÓg and I am a member of various campaigns centered around equality external from the ISSU.

MY PLANS

If elected to the NSE, I would work with and for students on a variety of different issues. I would focus on the vast remit of the Equality Officer through working with different sections. Maintaining my plans from last year, I would focus on three main points - Equality of Access, Equality of Education and Equality of Expression. Under Equality of Access, I would focus on issues ranging from accessibility, to period poverty. Under Equality of Education, I would continue my work on sexual health and gender equality and finally, under Equality of Expression, I would focus on religious freedom, rural representation and LGBT+ Incarceration.

I would achieve these ideals through working with relevant organisations and collaborating with other NSE officers. I believe that the only way to overcome any crisis or issue that affects all of us, is to come together in unity.

MANIFESTO

SAOIRSE EXTON FOR EQUALITY 2021

EQUALITY OF ACCESS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Continue my work on Accessibility
- Collaborate with Disability Officer
- Ensure that the Accessibility Guidelines are being upheld within the union

EQUALITY OF EDUCATION

SEXUAL HEALTH

- Continue my work with Active Consent
- Collaborate with GOSHH
- Collaborate with Welfare and Education Officers on RSE

EQUALITY OF EXPRESSION

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Create resources for lobbying school boards
- Work together with relevant organisations to create a "Combatting Xenophobia" manual
- Collaborate with International Officer

PERIOD POVERTY

- Continue my work with Anytime of the Month
- Work with Homeless Period Ireland to provide resources for student councils to advocate for period justice
- Collaborate with Welfare Officer

GENDER EQUALITY

- Work with Herstory.ie to share the stories of Irish women with students.
- Advocate for equitable subject choices
- Continue my work representing ISSU through the National Women's Council of Ireland.

LGBT+ ISSUES

- Collaborate with Anti Conversion Therapy Coalition
- Collaborate with BelongTo, TENI and other LGBT+ organisations
- Continue my work on the LGBT+ Internal Network.

INTERSECTIONALITY

- Collaborate with MASI to spread awareness and to advocate for inclusion of students in Direct Provision within the union
- Collaborate with International Officer
- Continue my work with Involve to advocate for the inclusion of students in the Travelling Community in union structures

INTERSECTIONAL EDUCATION

- Lobby Department of Education to review the curriculum
- Work together with experts and organisations in fields of intersectionality e.g. Black History to develop resources for student councils
- Publish resources on ISSU.ie

RURAL REPRESENTATION

- Uphold voices of rural students
- Further the work of previous NSEs on removing Dublin-centralism

ABOUT ME

I am a 15 year old climate activist from Limerick. I bring my passion, dedication and experience to the table. My belief is that:

Unity is the key to overcoming.



MY EXPERIENCE

- Equality Officer
- Award-winning Climate Ambassador 2020
- Amnesty International Youth, Power, Action Network! Member
- COY16 Country Coordinator
- FridaysforFuture Limerick Founder & Activist
- C40 Global Youth and Mayors Forum Member
- EPA Youth Advisory Group Member

EQUALITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH CHOMHIONANNAIS

JADE FITZGERALD

Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra

5th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Jade Fitzgerald, I am a sixteen-year-old fifth year student and lesbian living in rural Kerry. I am very politically motivated, inspiring, energetic and talkative. I have noticed the gradual decline of rural areas throughout my lifetime, the school I attend especially, has outdated resources. Having previously spoken to a member of the KDYS in Kerry, they told me they had never visited rural schools but is continuously in urban schools. This highlights the divide between town schools and schools such as my own situated in the countryside. I have become chairperson of the student council, to amend and right these injustices. I also volunteer with a local charity, the Social Action Group, to work with vulnerable people in the community, such as the elderly.

Since I was a mere small child in a hat, I have been picking up signs and protesting for what is right! As the years have progressed and my morals have developed, I have gained a strong sense of justice, becoming involved in the Comhairle na nÓg, Climate Live, beginning a Podcast, discussing matters that affect young people, and working with the NYCI. My greatest Honor is representing Ireland at the European Union Youth Conference. Where an idea I worked on is being passed through the European Parliament. I am a confident person who believes they can represent a large group of underrepresented people, such as rural people, members of the LGBT community and individuals living in poorer funded schools.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I attended my first protest at age 4 in my local village of Rathmore. In primary school I was head of the Green Schools committee, which continued into Secondary school. I began volunteering for the Social Action Group at this time, spending a few hours at the Day Care Centre. Keeping Rathmore clean, gardening, once a year we would cater children from Chernobyl and spend the day with them in Killarney.

This year I have become chairperson of the Student Council and have used this role for the school to join ISSU, work with green schools and KDYS for workshops that benefit students. In green schools we would spend a lot of time cleaning and delimiting the grounds, we have also received the Green Schools flag. Earlier this year I had the privilege of representing Ireland at the EUYC (European Union Youth Conference)

I worked on a project, which is now working through the European Parliament, which will fund grassroots organizations for social activist groups, such as LGBT groups, anti-racism groups among others. I became a member of Kerry Comhairle na nÓg this year and I am PRO of it, I have begun several social media campaigns, such as #Kerry's fitness fortnight and organized a virtual Zumba session which is still available on YouTube. After losing my bid for Head Girl I learned from this by being more motivated which led to me becoming Chairperson of Student Council.

MY PLANS

If I was elected as Equality Officer I would utilize my role to further the Vote at 16 campaign, increasing LGBT representation in schools, ensuring rural schools are not forgotten or left behind as they always are. I am a leader but can also work well in a team. I feel very strongly about anti-discrimination especially as I face it on a daily basis in school. I have set up several working groups throughout my other positions and all have worked effectively. If elected I will continue working on previous campaigns from the NSE. I also hope to develop the representation of rural schools and ensure we are given the same opportunities as urban schools. I will ensure that workshops are made available and accessible, to every student, be they have auditory, sensory, visual and other needs.

Accessibility is very important to me as I have a deaf father and I notice his difficulty in hearing things. My brother has visual impairment and I notice many things are not accessible to him, especially in media. If elected I will ensure accessibility is one of my main focuses and I will set up working groups where people can tell us how accessibility can be improved for everyone. I will ensure the members of the LGBT community are always given a say and are treated fairly while I am in office, working with organisations and other groups.

MANIFESTO

Jade Fitzgerald for equality

Looking right
to the future



A fifth-year student from rural Kerry that will
support you!

Why me?

I will work with
relevant bodies
to improve
education
regarding
religion and
sexuality

I will focus on
rural and
poorer
students as we
get less
assistance
within school

I will be the gay,
working class
culchie
representation
ypu need in
this union



Check out my social
media for my
experience and more



[jade4equality](#)



[jade4equality](#)

EQUALITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH CHOMHIONANNAIS

OMNIA KHARIEF

Our Lady's College Greenhills
6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Omnia Khariief and I'm running for the ISSU National Students Executive. I have always had a strong interest in helping others and creating change that matters. From an early age I have been involved with different organisations to try and use my voice and give my opinion on matters that were important to me and young people. Now, I want to be a person who can make that change.

PAST EXPERIENCE

As both a student and young person I have been involved with different groups to promote children's rights and the voice of young people. I've had experience with Tusla and Foróige, working on different campaigns to encourage and promote youth participation on a local and regional scale. In my school I have been part of the student council and have worked to use my position to create positive change within my own school community, such as fighting for new policies on religious equality and diversity.

This year, as a Regional Officer I have been able to use and develop my experience to work with different stakeholders and individuals to fight for the views of students. As an NSE member, I will use my drive and commitment to young people like me, to continue to show that we can and will make change. I understand that this takes work and dedication, and my promise to you is that I will.

MY PLANS

If I am elected to the NSE, I plan to work with students to strengthen equality within, and between schools, both nationally and locally. I plan to help introduce policies in schools that promote racial, religious and gender-based equality. An example of this would be working to make the curriculums in schools more racially inclusive and by reinforcing anti-racism policies. I want to work with schools to create policies that allow Hijabs or religious headwear for students of different faiths to be worn, regardless of the school. I plan to work to make school uniform policies more inclusive so that every student feels safe and comfortable in what they wear, and their identity.

As someone that recognises that schools need to be accessible for students of all learning abilities, I will work to make school learning, both in person and/or online more supportive for students with disabilities or that need any extra support. In order to make these changes, I will work with different stakeholders and students to make sure that the views of students are always heard!

MANIFESTO

Equality Officer

My name is Omnia Kharief and I am running to be your Equality Officer. Over the years, I've worked to promote positive change for young people and to show that we can make a difference and create our own solutions to problems we face. Inequality is one of those problems. As your Equality Officer I plan to work with students to fight inequality and injustice within the education system in order to promote change that we can carry into our futures as well!

I plan to work with students and schools to implement better policies against racism and religious discrimination within school communities. I believe schools should be environments that prioritise making students feel safe and respected for who they are and allow them to achieve a better quality of education. Education that is fair. One of the policies that I want to work to implement, is to allow students of different faith backgrounds to be able to freely wear any hijabs or headwear that is significant to their identity.

I plan to work with schools to change uniform policies where possible to allow neutral school uniforms to be worn in order to make every student feel safe, comfortable and respected in what they wear, and their own identity! These are issues that are important to me because I believe that we all should feel comfortable in the schools we go to and feel supported, regardless of who we are or where we come from. I will challenge racial injustice in schools, xenophobia, any other discrimination in school communities to create long term change that matters.

Over the past year, we've all been thrown into a mix of online learning and in school learning. For some it was perfect and convenient to study from home. However, I recognise that for many other students and those with learning disabilities or that need a little extra support, it was difficult, stressful and unfair. It's made it very clear that in terms of accessibility to learning, we still have a lot more to do. I plan to work with students to make sure that our schools are able to cater to all students needs, whether we're at home or in school. I know that we can make so much change, and I want to be the person that can help make that change for us!

EQUALITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH CHOMHIONANNAIS

EOGHAN O'MAHONY

Coláiste Pobail Bheanntraí
6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Eoghan O' Mahony and I study in Colaiste Pobail Bheanntrai, in West Cork. Living in a rural area I have developed an innate sense for community and how group effort gets work done. I was involved with the local Tidy Towns and was a member of my local Scouts troop for many years. I have strong beliefs in community building and to me, the ISSU is a student community. I believe in freedom of self-expression and I want to ensure that this freedom I feel, can be shared.

I wanted to run for Welfare Officer in 2020 but I felt that undertaking an extra year of school and further ISSU experience would allow me to enter the 2021 Annual Assembly as a stronger candidate.

Outside of school and the ISSU I try to keep myself balanced through walking and reading. I also do baking. Surrounding my town there are many trails and walks which allow for reflective thought, and to develop plans of action. Reading allows me to broaden my mindset which gives me an advantage in group settings allowing me to work while placing myself in my fellow committee members shoes.

Growing up with a disability, hearing loss, I have learnt to adapt and to undertake challenges in ways that I can overcome and achieve my aims. I have a grit and tenacity that I want to bring to this officer role.

PAST EXPERIENCE

In terms of past experience within the ISSU I have been a voting delegate at Annual Assembly 2020, Cork Regional Council of Schools 2020, and Extraordinary Assembly 2021. Within my school I have served as student chairperson of the Green Schools Committee for the past 4 years, and currently am assisting in a survey to ensure that disabled students can access local amenities surrounding the school campus. In 2019 I was awarded the title of Ireland South Water Ambassador 2019 with Irish Water for my work on water conservation and campaigning with my school for clean water access in all businesses in my town.

In 2019 I attended the RTE Youth Assembly on Climate, and in 2020, the ISSU Skills Academy. These events allowed me to develop policies, enacted with support from both my Student Council and Green Schools. I have been the 2020 Student Council chairperson in my school and as chair I have lead many progressive campaigns,

such as a uniform review, renewal of the mobile device policy, and refreshed an opened discussion with senior management surrounding the inclusion of gender non-conforming students into the school's student welfare policy. This gender inclusivity discussion will continue into the coming school year.

Within the Student Council we have established a new working group, in cooperation with the chaplaincy staff in the school, to ensure that all students of equal years have an opportunity to access the supports and services provided in the school. As chairperson I also began contact with relevant teachers on refreshing the schools period poverty campaign by providing free sanitary products to students under the school welfare policy. Alongside the sanitary product media campaign, we also established an open form for student concerns and have encouraged class tutor discussion over any discrimination faced within school.

MY PLANS

I would engage with the student body of Ireland and NSE to cooperate to enact an effective plan to tackle equality issues. I will ask all regional officers to facilitate the creation of regional specific period poverty campaigns to ensure that all students of Ireland are aware of resources available to them in relation to sanitary products.

I intend to cooperate with the Education Officer to raise the unfair system of Leaving Cert Non-Curricular language options. Currently this list only allows for European languages. I would like to query the addition of Igbo, Malayalam, Tagalog and other student languages to the non-curricular list to equalise the unfair advantages created by the Leaving Cert Non-Curricular list, allowing students from greater ethnic backgrounds to receive an examination in their native language.

In conjunction with the Disability Officer I will look into a working group to investigate existing barriers and stigmas affecting the education of disabled students. Relevant students will be included in discussion and I aim that we will act alongside existing disability organisations. Once we have established the current barriers I will contact the Comms Officer and material to raise awareness of what affects the students of this demographic. I am committed to the creation and continuation of an equal educational space for all students, inclusive of those with disabilities.

I will ensure that all school-reps receive information on how to cater to and create accessibility for gender Non-Conforming students. Pre-existing curriculum material must be scrutinised to ensure that they do not cause harm through outdated or religiously stifled norms such as the Relationships and Sexuality Education and Social Physical Health Education courses. Through consultation with the Welfare Officer I plan on using the current RSE reform to ensure it includes and respects students of differing gender identity and expression.

MANIFESTO



Eoghan O' Mahony ISSU Equality Officer candidate 2021/22

ABOUT ME

My name is Eoghan O' Mahony, I am a 6th year student in Colaiste Pobail Bheanntrai in Bantry, West Cork, and I am running to be your Equality Officer for the ISSU NSE. I feel passionate about what I do and I want to bring that passion to this officer position, to ensure that all students in Ireland are given an equal chance in their education and their communities.

EXPERIENCE

- Student Council Chairperson (2020/21)
- RTE Dáil Assembly on Climate Delegate (2019)
- Green Schools Chairperson (2015-2021)
- ISSU School Rep (2021/21)
- Munster Regional EYP Delegate (2019, 2021)
- Irish Water Munster Ambassador (2019)
- Meet your MEP Brussels Delegate (2018)
- ISSU Skills Academy Delegate (2020)
- Scouting Pack member (2010-2016)

AS YOUR EQUALITY OFFICER I WILL.....

- Establish a working group, alongside the Disability Officer, to investigate barriers to education for disabled students.
- Scrutinise existing curriculum materials to ensure they do not harm gender non-conforming students.
- Help the NSE to ensure all students have equal access to their education regardless of religion, gender expression, disability, or cultural ancestry.
- Lobby for intersectional involvement of secondary students in positions of student representation.
- Maintain contact with OBESSU and the International Officer to ensure Ireland's equality efforts and campaigns are in line with the European majority.
- Propose a review of the Leaving Cert Non-Curricular language list to ensure all students have equal opportunity to be examined in their native language.
- Ensure that all students of faiths, are free to practice their beliefs on campus, regardless of faith or denomination.
- Cooperate with Equality advocacy organisations like Amnesty International, TENI, NYCI, Pavee Point, and Irish Refugee Council

Eoghan, Equality, Efficient, Engaged
Vote 1 / Vótáil 1

EQUALITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH CHOMHIONANNAIS

TARA TOYE

Deele College

5th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Tara, I am a 5th year student from Deele College in Donegal. I love to play guitar and the bodhran. I grew up on a farm so that is where I spend a lot of my time, working with the cattle and donkey, and planning barndances. I love to get involved in activism and have always been looking for ways I can get involved. I would be absolutely honored to be elected onto the NSE as equality officer 21-22.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I have been in the ISSU for 3 years. I was first a regional officer for Donegal and held that position for 2 terms. While being a regional officer, I got involved in many working groups including; inclusive schools, constitutional reform, and ISSU writers team.

I was elected as student council support officer for the nse 20-21. During my time I led a working group which wrote the Student Council Handbook, I organised 20 regional councils, and trained and co-ordinated 44 regional officers.

I am a member of Donegal Youth Council.

I sit on the Jigsaw Youth Advisory Panel.

I have won Public speaking awards.

I am a ECMA multiplier.

MY PLANS

During my term on the NSE I have heard stories from students around Ireland about the inequalities they face in schools. I am ready to see the changes that needs to happen, and I want to get the opportunity and the platform to make a difference for the students. I want to make schools a place where all students are welcomed and encouraged to reach their full potential. I will do this by holding regional equality consultations where i can work with the students to identify the problems and to find solutions together.

MANIFESTO

Tara Toye
FOR EQUALITY



About Me

My name is Tara Toye and I am a 5th year student from Donegal. If elected, I will be your voice, working **for you, with you**, campaigning for nothing less than equality for all second-level students. I strongly believe that when young people come together there is no limit to what we can achieve.

My Experience

I have been involved with the ISSU for 3 years, first as a regional officer for Donegal, and now as the Student Council Support Officer on the National Student executive.

I am a member of Donegal comhairle na nog, I sit on the Donegal Jigsaw Youth Advisory Panel, and I am vice chairperson of my student council

My Goals

If elected as your equality officer I will strive for equality for all second-level students across Ireland. I will work on projects surrounding;

- Regional equality consultations
- Gender equality
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- LGBTQ+ community
- Period Poverty
- Mental Health

- ↳ Vote for passion and love
- ↳ Vote for equality for all students
- ↳ Vote for a voice fighting your corner
- ↳ Vote for inclusive schools
- ↳ Vote Tara Toye

FOR YOU
with you

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

OIFIGEACH na CUMARSÁIDE

SUZY ALIM

Presentation Secondary School

Clonmel

6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Suzane, I am a 6th year in Presentation Clonmel. I am very passionate about student voice mostly because we don't get much in our school. We have accomplished a lot and have come far in my school but it's still not enough. I want to strengthen that communication between students and to build trust.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I have already been involved in the ISSU. I am currently a regional officer and am involved in a variety of working groups like the Equality group, Welfare group and Comms group. I am also part of Tippeary Comhairle na nOg and was the chair person of my subgroup and I am now the public relations officer for Tipperary Comhairle na nOg. I am very familiar with communicating with our followers and with the Comhairle group.

MY PLANS

I want to build a sense of connection within the union and our membership by communicating reliable and relevant information. I want to build a sense of comfort and trust within our community and show that I am build for the task that I am set to do

MANIFESTO

**My name is
Suzy Alim...**

I am a 6th year student in Tipperary with a passion for connecting students to the union that represents them.

My experience as an advocate:

- I have been an active member of Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg for two years , my first year as chair of my sub-group and second year as Public Relations Officer for the council.
- I am Vice-Chairperson of my Student Council
- ISSU Regional Officer representing student voices in Tipperary.
- Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter Tipperary.

COMMUNICATION / CUMARSÁID

I want to openly communicate with our membership. Ensure that the union that represents them is as transparent as it can be, opening it up to students. I want to integrate braille and other forms of media into our current media policy, increase the accessibility of our union to ensure we can adequately connect with each other.

CREATION / CRUTHAITHEACHT

I want to create a safe environment between the union and students. I want to build trust and a source of reliability for our membership. I also want to create a sense of connection between the union and Non-Irish students living in Ireland by bringing in more language resources. I can use my ethnic background to translate resources into different languages for students to access and navigate.

CONNECTION / CEANGALTAS

I want to connect with student regionally and nationally, listen to them, their worries and their concerns. Connection with students will form results for students. By connecting with our membership we can ensure that we are always representing what THEY want.

COMMUNICATION

CREATION

CONNECTION

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

OIFIGEACH na CUMARSÁIDE

QUINTON KELLY

Coláiste Éamonn Rís

5th Year



ABOUT ME

I am a 17-year-old, 5th-year student in Wexford. I've been involved in raising student voice for the past 7 years with no intention of slowing down! I'm a very organised and creative individual with an extreme work ethic, who ensures the job is done! I have a lot of experience in working with the ISSU as well as other organisations such as Comhairle. Through these platforms I have developed my communication skills, raising student voice, graphic design, social media management and much more!

As a second-level student, I am involved in my student council and served as many different officers over the years. I have been involved in Scouting Ireland for 10 years and I have been a County & Provincial representative for 2 terms. I am a current Comhairle na nÓg National Executive and Comhairle member who has acted as Secretary, steering committee and monitored the PR work over the past 2 years. In my free time, I play the violin and play in my county's youth orchestra. I currently work as a social media manager and graphic designer for a selection of national brands and organisations. I am looking to study Architecture and Design in college and work in the design work sector in the future. I work with the Young SVP & Green Schools in my school.

I have been elected as an ISSU School Rep, East Regional Officer, Wexford Regional Officer and then re-elected as Wexford Regional Officer over the past few years. Serving 3 terms as Regional Officer. I have worked in working groups and projects such as the student council handbook, student council constitution template, regional officer handbook and much more. I also have an interest in photography & I have worked for a photography business for a couple of years.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I was elected as the ISSU East Regional Officer in 2019 and since then I have been re-elected as an ISSU Wexford Regional Officer twice, serving as a three-term regional officer as well as a school rep for two terms. I have been a part of the ISSU communications team where I was trained on using the ISSU brand guidelines and graphics. I was able to use my skills in Canva to create ISSU graphics overseen by the Communications Officer.

I am a member of Wexford Comhairle na nÓg since 2018 and became a National Executive for Wexford in 2019. I am a member of our steering committee. I also play a vital part in our PR Team where I help train up PROs and create and edit content. I have trained in Canva a couple of years ago. Since then I have used Canva to create

social media content for multiple national brands & organisations. I have used my skills to train fellow students on Canva in my school, Comhairle na nÓg and the ISSU. Due to my position in my workplace, I have been fully trained in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator and I would be able to use these skills to further develop the graphic design capabilities of the ISSU. Starting as an 8-year-old beaver I have worked my way up in Scouting Ireland over the past 10 years and have been and elected as a Wexford County Rep. and South-East Provincial Rep. twice since 2018 as a youth rep. and Provincial Youth Secretary. As a member of my student council since my 2nd year, I have been Student Council Treasurer, Secretary & Vice-Chairperson. In my time as an officer, we achieved a level 5 student council for a third consecutive year.

MY PLANS

One of my biggest passions has always been ensuring that student's voice is heard and listened to. I aim to ensure that we further develop more student resources for schools & student reps. Meaning students can use these resources to develop their student councils & platforms to raise student's voice. I would also like to develop new platforms for students to directly engage with each other and the union in more accessible ways. We need to improve our growing networks, nationally & regionally. I would ensure that communication working groups are created and training is taken place to expand media interaction, graphic design & branding to create a more efficient and supporting communications team built by students. I want to work on continuing to increase our social following & engagement to further spread the ISSUs message of who we are. This would mean increasing our appearance across all media, across all social media platforms and engaging more with other organisations and decision-makers.

As we need to become more active where students are most active. Ensuring that there is clear communication from schools to NSE is vital in the expansion of the union. Our Grassroots Networks are more important than ever and without strong roots, we can not grow as a students' union. I aim to introduce more resources and support to our regions and grassroots to ensure officers can successfully engage with local media, decision-makers and schools while building up their communication skills. As a student sitting LC 2022, I want to do everything I can to provide support, clarity & raise the voices of my fellow peers. Student wellbeing and understanding need to be at the forefront of decision making. With strong communication, we can ensure that the voice of exam student voices is heard.

MANIFESTO



Quinton Kelly
FOR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
#QUINTON4COMMS

WHO AM I?

Hi there! I'm Quinton

I am a 17-year-old, 5th-year student in Wexford.

I've been raising student voice for the past 7 years with no intention of slowing down!

MY EXPERIENCE

- Wexford Regional Officer:

- Elected **East Regional Officer** in 2019.
- **Re-elected** as a **Wexford Regional Officer** twice.

- Comhairle na nÓg National Executive

- Member of **Wexford Comhairle na nÓg** since 2018
- **National Executive** for Wexford in 2019.
- Steering Committee member,
- **PR Team** where I help train up PROs to create and edit content.

- Communications Team:

- I was **trained** on using the **ISSU brand guidelines and graphics.**
- I used my skills in Canva to create graphics overseen by the Communications Officer.

- Canva Trained

- Fully trained in Canva.
- I create **content for multiple national brands & organisations.**
- Trained students on Canva in my school, Comhairle na nÓg and the ISSU.

- Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator

- **Fully trained in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.**
- Use these skills to further develop the graphic design capabilities of the ISSU.

OBJECTIVES:

Student Voice

- 1
 - Create New Student Resources for schools, student councils and school reps.
 - Develop platforms for students to directly engage with the union on issues they are facing together.

Networking

- 2
 - Expanding social platforms
 - Create Communication Working Groups
 - Communications Training for Members
 - Increasing Grassroot Networks

'Branding' ISSU

- 3
 - Increase Social Media Platforms! *"Becoming more active, where students are most active!"*
 - Working with organisations on projects and media to increasing our national appearance.

Regional Comms

- 4
 - Resources made for Regional Communication Skills, including training and support.
 - Develop engagement with Local Media and organisations through Regional Network.

LC & JC 2022

- 5
 - Provide support, clarity & raise the voices of my fellow peers through media and networking!
 - Ensuring strong communication between decision-makers is maintained and developed.



Check out!

@Quinton4Comms



quinton4comms@gmail.com

#QUINTON4COMMS

OIFIGEACH NA GAeilGE

IRISH LANGUAGE OFFICER

JAMES Ó MUIRITHE

Meánscoil San Nioclás

6th Year



ABOUT ME

A chairde, James Ó Muirithe is ainm dom. Táim i mo chónaí i nGaeltacht na nDéise agus táim ag rith don phost mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge. I believe I can utilize this role to bring about long-lasting and far-reaching change among the student body in relation to the Irish Language. I believe that, in order to inspire students to engage with the Irish language, opportunities must be created for them to speak it. Beatha teanga í a labhairt!

The Irish language has always been a central part of my life, attending Irish-medium schools for both Primary and Secondary education has provided me with an insight into the triumphs of the Irish language. However, through my years of experience among different youth-led projects, I have also seen the failings of the Irish language among the student body - the anger towards the curriculum, the lack of motivation and perhaps most pervasive, the indifference felt towards the language.

Tá taithí ollmhór agam ag obair ar son daoine óga ach go háirithe daoine óga le Gaeilge agus ba mhaith liom an paisean san a spregadh i measc scoláirí.

PAST EXPERIENCE

Mo thaithí laistigh don ADIÉ:

- Oifigeach Réigiúnach: I was elected as an ISSU Regional Officer (Oifigeach Réigiúnach) for Waterford and began my term this January. Through this I've gained invaluable experience of the ISSU, its structure, working groups and policies.
- Prospects not Provision Working Group
- Ball de Ghrúpa Oibre na Gaeilge: I've been involved with the Grúpa Oibre na Gaeilge, primarily in the creation of a survey regarding the T1 + T2 Language scheme. I have also helped translate a mental health manual and other such output.
- European Change Makers Academy Multiplier

Taithí oiriúnach eile:

Beyond an Aontas, I've been involved with many other projects centred around the Irish language and/or youth engagement:

- European Youth Parliament Ireland: I have been a member of EYP Ireland for two years and have been selected to an International forum of the organisation. I am currently in the midst of planning the first All-Irish session of the organisation which would run for 3 days and engage over 120 young people through the medium of Irish.
- Féile Péacóg: I am a committee member of Féile Péacóg, Is coiste na hóige í a stiúraíonn an féile. Féile Péacóg is a project run through Dún Garbhán le Gaeilge which is focused on encouraging people to speak Irish in the context of an art festival.
- Comhairle na nÓg: I was elected as Chairperson of the Waterford Comhairle na nÓg during the term of 2018-19.
- Comhairle na nDaltaí: I have been chairperson of the Meánscoil San Nioclás Comhairle na nDaltaí since 2019
- Labhair mé ar TG4, Raidió na Gaeltachta agus Nuacht RTÉ faoin Ardteist ar bhonn pearsanta.
- Gradam UCC Student+ bronnaithe de bharr mo leibhéal Gaeilge
- Ball de fo-choiste an Coiste Leanaí agus Óige Phort Láirge

MY PLANS

Tá obair na gcapaill déanta ag an Oifigeach na Gaeilge atá ag feidhmiú faoi láthair chun spás a cruthú san ADIÉ don Ghaeilge trína Scéim Teanga agus ba mhaith liom a cinntiú go feidhmíonn sé go deo i ngach páirt don Aontas. Bhainfeadh sé seo a lán amach dos na daltaí ó taobh achmainní meabharsláinte, abhcóideacht dalta agus uile obair an ADIÉ.

Beyond this however I feel there is an urgent need to increase student awareness and gather students' response to the implementation of the T1 and T2 language scheme. The implementation of the T1 and T2 language scheme for the Leaving Certificate is the most significant change to the Irish curriculum seen in decades. The Irish Language Working Group led by the previous Oifigeach has been working on a survey for the past few months however I believe it's imperative that this survey is released to the students to receive a representational response as soon as possible. It's imperative the ADIÉ represents students on this matter and I plan to work closely with the Education Officer to ensure this is achieved.

FORÓGRA

JAMES D'OIFIGEACH NA GAEILGE



A chairde Gael! James Ó Muirthe is ainm dom. Táim i mo chónaí i nGaeltacht na nDéise agus táim ag rith don phost mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge. Is dalta sa séú bhliain mé agus tá sé beartaithe agam staidéar a dhéanamh ar an Dlí an bhliain seo chugainn.

M'AIDHMEANNA

Dréacht-Shonraíocht na Gaeilge don tSraith Shinsearach

Caithfear athbhreithniú eolaíoch a bheith déanta ar an Teastas Sóisearach roimh a leantar ar aghaidh leis an bpróiseas chomhairliúcháin do Ghaeilge na hArdteiste.

Conradh na Gaeilge, Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn agus Eagraíochtaí Eile

Ba mhaith liom obair na sean-Oifigigh a leanúint agus nasc láidir a choimeád le h-eagraíochtaí Gaeilge - mar chuid den obair seo, ba mhaith liom Traenáil na n-Oifigeach a chur ar fáil aríst i mbliana, i gcomhpháirt le Conradh na Gaeilge.

Scéim Teanga an Aontais a Chur i bhFeidhm

Tá gá leis an scéim teanga nua a chur i bhfeidhm ionas gur Aontas dá-theangach amach is amach sinn.

Aistriúcháin

Caithfidimid a chinntiú go bhfuil acmhainní Gaeilge ar fáil do dhaltaí meánscoile.

MO THAITHÍ

- Oifigeach Réigiúnach ADIÉ do Phort Láirge.
- Ball de Ghrúpa Oibre na Gaeilge san Aontas.
- Cathaoirleach Comhairle na nÓg Contae Phort Láirge 2018-19.
- Cathaoirleach Comhairle na nDaltaí Meánscoil San Nioclás 2019-21.
- Ball den choiste óige a stúiríonn Féile Péacóg.
- Gradam UCC Student+ bronnaithe de bharr mo leibhéal Gaeilge.
- Ball de fó-choiste an Coiste Leanaí agus Óige Phort Láirge.
- Taithí leis na Méain: Labhair mé ar TG4 agus Nuacht RTÉ faoin Ardteist ar bhonn pearsanta.



MANIFESTO

JAMES D'OIFIGEACH NA GAEILGE



A chairde gael! My name is James Ó Muirthe and I'm running for the role of Oifigeach na Gaeilge. I'm a sixth year student living in Gaeltacht na nDéise with plans to study Law next year.

MY AIMS

Delay Decision on the Draft Specifications for Senior Cycle Irish

A thorough review must be undertaken on the Irish subject at Junior Certificate level before further consultation can proceed on changes to the Irish Leaving Certificate curriculum.

Conradh na Gaeilge, Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn and other such Organisations

I want to continue the work of the previous Oifigh and maintain the strong link formed with Irish language Organisations - as a part of this I plan to offer Traenáil na n-Oifigeach in conjunction with Conradh na Gaeilge again this year.

Implementation of the Union's Irish Language Scheme

It's imperative the new Irish Language Scheme is enforced to ensure the Union is run bilingually from here on out.

Translation

It's critical Irish language resources are available to secondary school students, in the union and in schools.

EXPERIENCE

- Waterford Regional Officer for the ISSU.
- Member of the Irish Language Working group of the ISSU.
- Chairperson of Waterford Comhairle na nÓg 2018-19
- Chairperson of the Meánscoil San Nioclás Student Council 2019-21
- Member of the youth committee that steers the Féile Péacóg.
- Awarded a UCC Student + Certificate for my Irish level.
- Sub-committee member of the Waterford Children and Young People's Services Committee.
- Media Experience: I have spoken in a personal capacity on RTÉ Nuacht and TG4 about the Leaving Certificate.



EDUCATION OFFICER

OIFIGEACH OIDEACHAIS

CONOR CASEY

Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine

6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Conor Casey, and I am currently a Leaving Certificate student in Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine in the county of Kerry. I have a deep passion for science and technology, and I am interested in studying Mathematics and Philosophy at university next year. I also enjoy music and musicals and have taken part in two musical to date; playing in a lead role in one instance.

Alongside these two interests, I am intrigued by the political world. These interests might seem inherently contradictory. As a young scientist, I'm trained to first find the best information available, and if I don't have sufficient information, do what I can to get better information. This often doesn't happen in the world of politics, where political expediency is often the priority. Science, however, has always been political. We are in the depths of a pandemic and a climate crisis, both solvable through the means and tools of science. The relationship between these two areas has always been a major source of fascination for me.

Based on working on a wide variety of different projects in the past, I have developed a great work ethic and have a tenacious attitude when working on a difficult problem. I always endeavour to ensure that I am well researched in a particular topic before tackling it. I never miss deadlines, I'm detailed-orientated, and I can juggle multiple tasks at once.

At this year's Annual Assembly, I am running to be the next Education Officer of the Irish Second-Level Student Union. In doing so, my goal is simple: I want to apply the scientific method to solve some of the challenging problems students face.

PAST EXPERIENCE

As previously alluded to, I have pursued several different scientific projects and endeavours over the years, and I have won numerous national and international awards for this. I will be representing Ireland at the International Science and Engineering in May, as well as at, the Global Science and Technology Bowl.

As a result of doing this on so many different occasions, I have developed a strong ability to communicate oftentimes complex and intricate topics in a relatively simple and concise manner. This also boosted and enhanced my public speaking skills as a result of talking to students, teachers, and the general public at these

events. From all of this, I can bring the knowledge of solving difficult technical problems using science and mathematics, and I strongly believe that this will be useful as the Education Officer of the ISSU.

Concerning experience representing students, political experience in a sense, I have served on my school's Student Council on two distinct occasions and I am currently serving as the ISSU Representative for my school. As a consequence, I have experience in listening to my peers and fighting for the changes they demand. I have also attended several ISSU events throughout the last two academic years, and have become familiar with the work, role and structure of the ISSU in the Irish education system.

While I know that I am relatively inexperienced in this area, I believe the skills from my previous experiences are transferrable to this area and I believe I would be an effective Education Officer.

MY PLANS

If I am privileged enough to be elected to serve on the NSE as Education Officer, my three key areas of focus would be continuing on the work completed by the current Education Officer concerning Leaving Certificate and CAO reform, establish a review into the new Junior Cycle to determine its effectiveness and whether it achieved the desired objectives from a student perspective, and developing a comprehensive science strategy for the ISSU.

With respect to LC reform, I would ensure the report developed by the current Education Officer is the policy pursued by the ISSU. This would be done through close collaboration with the NSE and the incoming Education working group, as well as relevant stakeholders. In relation to CAO reform, I would advocate for the inclusion of extracurricular activities and a personal statement style question on the CAO, as well as, calling for apprenticeships to be included on the CAO application form. This would be done through collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, such as the Department of Further and Higher Education.

Concerning the establishment of a review into the new Junior Cycle, I would establish a separate working group to look at this issue. A survey would be launched, as well as, conducting several town halls to hear from students directly. At the end of this process, a report would be published detailing the findings of this review.

Finally, with regard to the development of a comprehensive science strategy, I would establish a working group to look at this issue and work with outside experts to ensure that this work follows the conscience of the scientific community. The goal of developing this policy is to ensure that the ISSU and members of the NSE are better equipped to deal with scientific matters, such as the pandemic and climate change.

MANIFESTO

Conor Casey for Education Officer

My name is Conor Casey, I am currently a LC student from Kerry, and I am running to be your next Education Officer.



Past Experience

- Pursued several scientific projects.
- Won national and international awards.
- Developed an ability to communicate complex topics in a simple manner.



- Bring the knowledge of solving technical problems using science and mathematics, and I believe that this will be useful in a research-led, data-driven role such as the position of Education Officer.

- Served on my school's Student Council on two occasions.
- Serving as the ISSU Representative for my school.
- Have experience in listening to my peers and fighting for the changes they demand.



Projects

Junior Cycle Review



- Establish a review into the new Junior Cycle to determine its effectiveness and whether it achieved the desired objectives.
- A separate working group would be formed to look at this issue.
- A survey would be launched, as well as, conducting town halls to hear from students directly.

Science and Education

- Expand the Education Officer brief to include science.
- Develop a comprehensive science strategy.
- Advocate to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to take a STEM subject.
- Call for a practical to be a component of all science subjects.



Reform

Leaving Certificate

- Ensure the report developed by the current Education Officer is the policy pursued.
- This would be done through close collaboration with the Education working group, as well as relevant stakeholders.



CAO



- Advocate for the inclusion of extracurricular activities and a personal statement style question on the CAO.
- Call for apprenticeships to be included on the CAO form.
- This could be achieved through collaborating with relevant stakeholders, such as the Department of Further and Higher Education.

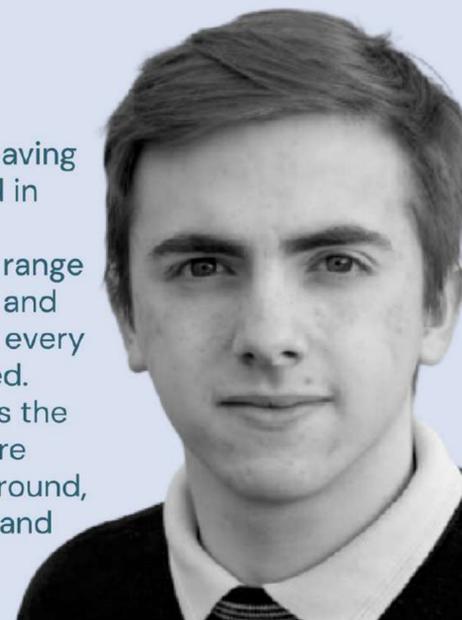
Ambitions

Objectives

- To help reform the CAO process to ensure that it takes into account areas outside of academics that students excel in. Students should not be defined by a single number.
- To increase the number of women taking STEM subjects, alongside ensuring they have the opportunity to take a STEM subject if they wish. For example, some girl schools still do not offer DCG.

Vision

- That the Junior and Leaving Certificate is designed in such a manner that it accounts for the wide range of talents of students, and that each student has every opportunity to succeed.
- That every student has the chance, no matter their socioeconomic background, to progress to further and higher education.



EDUCATION OFFICER

OIFIGEACH OIDEACHAIS

COURTNEY CHAMBERS

Mountrath Community School

3rd Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Courtney Chambers. I am a 3RD year student attending Mountrath Community School in Co. Laois. I'm 16 years old and will be heading into TY next year. I am quite a curious, dedicated, hardworking student who is passionate about Education. I love taking part in student activism and working with other students to make a difference. I've been a part of many activism projects and I am an active member of my school's student council.

I'm a very quiet individual and enjoy my own company, because of this I've gotten to know myself better. I've come to realise what I like to do, and what I hope to do in the future. Despite enjoying my own company, I feel I am an excellent team player and work well with others.

My favourite subject would be either Maths or Science. During my TY year next year, I hope to take part in projects such as BT Young Scientist and the SciFest competition. I love school and I hope to study medicine when I leave Second Level Education.

In my spare time I enjoy watching medical lessons on YouTube. I like to wind down in the evenings by going on walks or watching Grey's Anatomy. I play camogie for my local GAA club too, which I enjoy for the most part.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I have a lot of experience in the area of activism. For the term of 2020/ 2021 I worked alongside the former Education Officer while being on the ISSU Education Working Group. While I was there I worked on Senior Cycle Reform for 5 months by working with my colleagues to compile a survey to distribute to 5th and 6th year students in selected schools. With this project, the Education Working group that I was a part of we presented the results of this survey to important education stakeholders at an ISSU hosted symposium in April of 2021. For this event I was MC. I was also involved in the NSE and ROB discussions regarding the 2021 State Exams, where I helped invent adequate solutions to the exam crisis.

In the summer of 2020, I worked alongside 4 nationally known academics from TCD, UCD and Marino Institute of Education around issues related to racism and the lack of racial education in the Irish curriculum. As a part of this project, I created a petition to "Introduce Racial Education Into Irish Curriculum" which I circulated amongst important stakeholders. I also wrote a report on why racial education is important which was included in the ISSU Senior Cycle Reform report. If I am elected as Education Officer, this is something I would like to further work on,

by bringing my knowledge and experience to the role.

I have lots of experience in activism that makes me the perfect candidate for this position. I am an active member of my school's student council, on which I am the PRO. Here, my job is to promote the work of the council. To do this, I work with my principal to include a monthly student council report in the school newsletter.

MY PLANS

I feel that I have a lot of experience in student activism, which I think would be very beneficial to me in the role of Education Officer. If I am elected, I would like to work mostly on Equality within Education. I hope to work with suited organizations such as the Irish Network Against Racism, to introduce a racial discrimination module to offer to schools TY curriculums in which all TY students across Ireland can take part in. In this module I would like to include topics such as the different forms of racism, how it affects people emotionally and physically, how to help someone who is experiencing racism and how we can celebrate diversity in our schools. It is my vision that with the right education, students would be able to recognise and reject racial harassment.

I would also hope to work on improving transition year to suit everyone, which I think is important as Transition Year is varied depending on schools. I would work with relevant bodies to introduce more choice into TY, more modules, and better work experience. I would like to work with important stakeholders in all work sectors to open up work experience for all students regardless of socio economic background. I would like to see a TY experience that allows all students to grow and prosper, and a programme in which no student is left behind because of their schools capacity to deliver.

MANIFESTO



COURTNEY CHAMBERS FOR EDUCATION

VOTE NUMBER 1

MY EXPERIENCE

- WORKED WITH THE FORMER EDUCATION OFFICER VIA 2021 EDUCATION WORKING GROUP
- WORKED WITH 4 NATIONALLY KNOWN ACADEMICS AROUND THE INTRODUCTION OF RACIAL EDUCATION TO IRISH CURRICULUM

ABOUT ME

- I am passionate about education
- I am hardworking and dedicaed to my work
- I am a good team leader

MY GOALS

- 01 INTRODUCE A WORKSHOP EDUCATING STUDENTS ON RACIAL HARRASMENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS ACROSS IRELAND
- 02 INTRODUCE AN ADEQUATE TY CURRICULUM TO EMPOWER THE FUTURE OF STUDENTS
- 03 ADVOCATE FOR EQUAL OPPURTUNITIES AND SUPPORTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

EDUCATION OFFICER

OIFIGEACH OIDEACHAIS

SINÉAD ENGLISH

St. Tiernan's Community School

6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Sinéad English. I am 18 years old and I am from Dublin. I go to St. Tiernan's Community School. Ever since starting secondary school I have always been aware and had concerns for student issues from working hard on my Student Council and I believe it is my time to continue helping students across the country with them. Not only do I have a passion for student voice but for the education that myself and thousands of young Irish students receive. I may not have the same experience as others but that doesn't mean my experience is any less than theirs.

PAST EXPERIENCE

If I'm being honest, my experience was something that worried me when applying to run for the ISSU NSE. I've attended events run by the union and similar organisations like my local Comhairle na nÓg, but I was never directly involved. However, this doesn't mean I don't have the right experience just because it is slightly different to others.

When I think of the NSE the most important skill I think that is needed is team work. Throughout the past few years I have been involved on many teams, playing on basketball and table tennis teams in school, working on the Ember team and even competing at a maths competition with other students in my maths class. I always find myself working better with a group of people and it is a skill I can bring to working as the Education Officer on the NSE.

Teamwork and Leadership always go hand in hand when working with a group of people. I might not be running for President but when I start my working group, I will have to take the lead. I have always found myself comfortable in this role and this has been proven for the many awards I have received for Leadership in school and outside of school. Leadership is something I take very seriously and will benefit the ISSU if I get elected.

I have been elected since first year to be on my Student Council and have worked on it ever since. I was the Secretary for two years and I have worked hard as the President for the last two years. I have developed the necessary skills for working on the NSE and for the Education Officer through my student council.

MY PLANS

I would like to continue the work of the Reformation of the Senior Cycle that the current Education Officer, Alicia, started. I think the work that Alicia has done has been incredible but this is only the start. If I was elected as the Education Officer, I would like to work with the stakeholders in education on the Senior Cycle Reform as I believe change is needed sooner rather than later.

As a student who continuously advocated for the addition of girls trousers to my school's uniform, I would like to make this the norm country wide. I would work closely with the Equality Officer on this issue.

An issue that I have seen affect my school is the classism we have experienced for being a DEIS school. If I was elected as Education Officer I would like to start the conversation around this problem and try to make education as equal as possible for everyone.

Since the start of remote learning back in March 2020, school has had to become more and more digital. Even when we got back to school the use of Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams and any other education application became more frequent. From my experience, and many others as well, technology has been a great addition to our education however for many students there has been a big barrier to this integration. The problems scale from lack of digital literacy skills, to not having the right and appropriate devices. If I was elected as Education Officer, I would work hard to solve these problems.

MANIFESTO

Sinéad English for Education Officer 2021/21



Who Am I?

I am an 18 year old student from Dublin. I have always been aware and had concerns for student issues and I believe it's my time to start helping student's across the country with them

Not only do I have a passion for student voice but for the education that myself and thousands of young Irish students receive

What I would like to achieve:

Continue the work on Senior Cycle Reform

Work with equality officer on uniform inequality

Integration of technology in our education

Address treatment of DEIS schools

My Experience:

I may not have the same experience as others but that doesn't mean my experience is any less than theirs. I believe I still have developed the same skills as those who may have direct involvement with the union.

~

Student Council Member for 6 years.

Secretary for 2 years and Chairperson for 2 years

Involved on numerous teams e.g.

Basketball and Ember team

Awarded in school and outside of school for my leadership and academic excellence.



@sinead4ed

EDUCATION OFFICER

OIFIGEACH OIDEACHAIS

GRACE O'DUFFY

Alexandra College

5th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Grace O'Duffy, and I am a 17 year old Irish/American student in Dublin. I am passionate about education reform and I believe that the student voice needs to be central in the decision-making process. We have gained so much momentum in the past year, and it is vital that we continue on our upward trajectory. We need a plan for long term engagement in the reform process, and during my term I will design and initiate a strategy to earn students a seat at the table.

I will be the ideal candidate for this position because I am dedicated and hard-working, and I believe in the power of collaboration and representation. I have strong public speaking and written communication skills and I will approach this role with professionalism and integrity.

Above all, my priority is the long term success of the union in engagement with the stakeholders in the reform process. Students have unique insight that we can share, and it is important that we are given the chance to contribute to the reforms. As Education Officer, I will work hard every day to represent and amplify the student voice.

In order to successfully create tangible and lasting change, I believe in a three tier approach - we need change at a government level, at an organisational level, and grassroots level. I will dedicate my term to reform from all of these angles.

We have a unique opportunity to make lasting change, and I am the strongest candidate to lead this transition to a new era of student involvement.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I have been involved in education and education reform from a variety of perspectives. I attended primary school and middle school in California, and secondary school here in Ireland. I will bring unique insight from my observations and experiences of both systems. In Transition Year, I took university classes in law and politics at DCU one day a week. I have first-hand experience of the expectations of a third level course, which gives me a more complete view of the education system as a whole. Additionally, I am an experienced Maths, English and Science tutor, which gives me a balanced perspective and allows me to engage with teachers and other

stakeholders in a more meaningful way. Most importantly, I have been heavily involved with all of the union's work on Senior Cycle Reform this year. As a member of the Education Working Group, my group members and I were responsible for designing and distributing the Senior Cycle reform survey and analysing and writing up all of the data we received. The results and analysis were published in our Senior Cycle Reform Report. I have the experience needed to take the next steps in the reform process and work with the other stakeholders.

Additionally, I have been involved in politics for years. When I lived in California, I volunteered for Hillary Clinton's campaign. I made phone calls, sold buttons, and registered voters. In fourth year, I studied both Irish and American politics in DCU and wrote two academic papers. In the 2020 US election I phonebanked and textbanked, and sent hundreds of handwritten letters to voters. The role of education officer is policy heavy, so my political experience is directly relevant and valuable to this position.

Overall, my experience in education and politics makes me the ideal candidate for Education Officer.

MY PLANS

I will devote my term to Senior Cycle Reform. It is crucial that the next officer addresses this issue, as we have a unique opportunity to influence the incoming policy. Our union has many strengths, however our annual change of leadership makes it more difficult for us to bring a consistent approach to the reform process. During my term, I will design and initiate a 5 year Senior Cycle Reform Engagement Strategy to guide future officers in maintaining our momentum at this critical time. The strategy will help the union to build long term relationships with the stakeholders and earn a permanent seat at the decision making table.

To provide support to our advocacy, I will write a comprehensive position paper on student perspective on Senior Cycle Reform. It is much easier for the stakeholders to work with us if we can hand them a clear picture of our objectives, rather than coming to the table with various disconnected ideas and goals.

While high level advocacy is effective, and crucial in making lasting change, it is key that we approach this issue from a grassroots level as well. I will run three additional projects during my term to help address specific areas that need grassroots support. I will design and introduce a civics engagement award, in the form of a school flag, to raise the perception of the value of civics education by schools and wider society. I will also run a three tier RSE initiative to help make RSE more widely available to students, and I will design and pilot a TY Life Skills Module to show the government that life skills can, and should be included in the Senior Cycle.

MANIFESTO



GRACE O'DUFFY

FOR EDUCATION OFFICER 2021

PROGRESS, PURPOSE, POWER

Experience

I'm Grace and I'm a 5th year student in Dublin. I am passionate about education reform and I believe it is crucial that students are involved in the decision making process. As a member of the **ISSU Education Working Group**, I've worked closely with the Education Officer, and understand the unique demands and challenges of the role. I was **one of the core authors of the Senior Cycle Reform report** and was heavily involved in the design and planning of our **survey** and **symposium**. I have a broad perspective and deep understanding of the Senior Cycle and the reform process, and I will bring professionalism, dedication, and collaboration to this role.

Reform Strategy

During my term, I will take a comprehensive approach to Senior Cycle reform. This issue **must be addressed** by the incoming officer, as the changes are already underway. I will engage with the reform process at a **government level, a union level and a student level**.

Our union has many strengths, however the annual change of leadership makes it difficult for us to bring a consistent approach to the reform process. During my term, I will **design and initiate a 5 year Strategy for Engagement in the Reform Process**, to take the first steps in earning a **permanent seat at the table**.

I will also deliver a **comprehensive position paper** that details student perspective on all aspects of Senior Cycle reform.

Life Skills

I will advocate for the inclusion of life skills (paying taxes, registering to vote, etc.) in the Senior Cycle in all of my work with the NCCA and in the paper that I write, and I will **design and pilot** an 8 week TY **Life Skills module**, to show the department this is both possible, and in demand.

RSE

We need RSE to be more widely available - I will address this at a government level, advocating for a **legal minimum time** for RSE, an organisational level, working with the HSE to **organise remote classes**, and a grassroots level, by running an event to **help students lobby their schools**.

Civics Education

Civics education needs to be central to the reformed curriculum - to bring this issue to the **forefront of the conversation** and to help schools and wider society **realise the value of civics**, I will design and initiate a **Civic Engagement Award for schools**.

Social Media:
[@grace4education](https://www.instagram.com/grace4education)

FORÓGRA

PROGRESS PURPOSE POWER PROGRESS PURPOSE



GRACE O'DUFFY

DON OIFIGEACH OIDEACHAIS 2021

DUL CHUN CINN, CUSPÓIR, CUMHACHT

Thaithí

Is mise Grace agus is mac léinn 5ú bliana mé i mBaile Átha Cliath. Táim paiseanta faoin athchóiriú an oideachais agus creidim go bhfuil sé ríthábhachtach go mbeadh mic léinn páirteach sa phróiseas cinnteoireachta.

Bhí mé ar cheann de chroí-údair na tuarascála ar Athchóiriú an tSraith Shinsearach agus bhí baint mhór agam le dearadh agus pleanáil ár suirbhé agus ár siompóisiam. Tá peirspictíocht leathan agus tuiscint dhomhanda agam ar an tSraith Shinsearach agus ar an bpróiseas athchóirithe, agus tabharfaidh mé gairmiúlacht, dúthracht agus comhoibriú don ról seo.

Straitéis Athchóirithe

Le linn mo théarma, glacfaidh mé cur chuige cuimsitheach maidir le hathchóiriú na Sraithe Sinsearaí. Caithfidh an t-oifigeach nua aghaidh a thabhairt ar an gceist seo, toisc go bhfuil na hathruithe ar siúl cheana féin.

Tá go leor buanna ag ár n-aontas, ach mar gheall ar an athrú bliantúil ar cheannaireacht bíonn sé deacair orainn cur chuige comhsheasmhach a thabhairt i leith an phróisis athchóirithe. Le linn mo théarma, déanfaidh mé Straitéis 5 bliana um Rannpháirtíocht sa Phróiseas Athchóirithe a dhearadh agus a thionscnamh, chun na chéad chéimeanna a ghlacadh chun suíochán buan a thuilleamh ag an mbord. Seachadfaidh mé páipéar seasaimh cuimsitheach freisin a shonraíonn peirspictíocht na mac léinn ar gach gné d'athchóiriú rothaíochta Sinsearaí.

Scileanna Saoil

Déanfaidh mé abhcóideacht ar son scileanna saoil (cánacha a íoc, clárú le vótáil, srl.) sa tSraith Shinsearach i mo chuid oibre go léir leis an NCCA agus sa pháipéar a scríobhaim. Cruthóidh mé modúl píolótach ocht seachtaine Scileanna Beatha do mhic léinn san idirbhliain, chun a thaispeáint don roinn go bhfuil sé seo indéanta agus go bhfuil éileamh mór air.

Oideachas Cathartha

Caithfidh oideachas cathartha a bheith lárnach sa churaclam leasaithe - chun an tsaincheist seo a thabhairt chun tosaigh sa chomhrá agus chun cabhrú le scoileanna agus leis an tsochaí ar fad luach na saoránachta a bhaint amach, déanfaidh mé clár Dámhachtana Rannpháirtíochta Cathartha a dhearadh agus a thionscnamh do scoileanna.

OCG

Ní mór OCG a bheith ar fáil níos forleithne - tabharfaidh mé aghaidh air seo ar leibhéal an rialtais, ag tacú le híosmhéid ama dlíthiúil do OCG, leibhéal eagrúcháin, ag obair le FSS chun ranganna iargúlta a eagrú, agus leibhéal an phobail, trí imeacht a reáchtáil chun cabhrú le mic léinn stocaireacht ar a gcuid scoileanna.

mo mheáin shóisialta:
[@grace4education](https://www.instagram.com/grace4education)

EDUCATION OFFICER

OIFIGEACH OIDEACHAIS

JACK MCGINN

Ardscoil Rís Limerick

3rd Year



ABOUT ME

Heya my name is Jack McGinn and I'm running for Education Officer. I'm 15 years old and I'm from Limerick City. I'm currently in 3rd year and going into TY. From a young age I was always interested in student voice, politics and current affairs. As far back as primary school, I was involved with my student council and witnessed the sheer power of students' voices. As per the 2016 census, there were just over 1.2 million young people under the age of 18. You are one of those young persons. That is over 1.2 million people that have no representation in the Dáil, that don't get to vote. That is why student voice is essential. We must have a say, in issues that affect us now, and issues that will affect us in the future. Our opinions need to be respected. W

hat was the most significant thing we the students were able to achieve with student voice? For me, it has to be the choice on the Leaving Cert. It shows that anything is possible when you have the right people representing you. If I was to describe myself in three words, they would be; young, genuine & hard-working. I'm in 3rd year, I'm a student just like you. Do you want second-level students representing second-level students? I genuinely want to promote student voice, I genuinely feel I am the best candidate to do so. Most of all, I'm hard-working. Some would say I'm a work-a-holic, but I can't leave a task incomplete, I have to finish it! I'll be in TY if elected, so I will be able to devote my time to the ISSU and you, the students. Thanks for reading and enjoy your AA :)

PAST EXPERIENCE

Currently, I'm serving as Secretary of the Education Working Group (the Education Officer's team). This means I am already well aware of the responsibilities of the Education Officer, and was able to assist in some areas. In addition I work extremely closely with the Education Officer. The two main issues we worked on this year were the Junior Cycle & Leaving Certificate exams 2021, running a Senior Cycle Reform Survey and subsequently creating the ISSU Senior Cycle Reform Report 2021. This Senior Cycle Reform survey was produced in conjunction with the ESRI and used a sample pool to ensure we get representative data. We very recently presented our report to educational stakeholders launched by Ruairí Quinn, Former Minister for Education and Skills.

Senior Cycle reform is something that is extremely important to me, especially noting that the Junior Cycle is reformed but the Senior Cycle isn't - I believe it needs to be dealt with immediately. From my work as Secretary of the Education Working Group I've gained invaluable knowledge on all things related to Senior Cycle Reform. I understand what the students want and I also understand what the other education stakeholders want. I'm also

serving on the ISSU Religion Working Group (under the International Officer and the Deputy President), and on the ISSU Presidential Support Team (a close-knit team that supports the ISSU President).

MY PLANS

A big part of the next Education Officer's role will be the State Exams 2022. These students have missed out on 2 full academic years of school, and this needs to be reflected in the exams they sit. I plan to lobby the Minister, DES, SEC and all the other educational stakeholders (teacher's unions, ect) to reduce the amount of questions on both the JC & LC.. This will give students more time to spend and think through each question. I always believe there is no point in lobbying for unrealistic asks (like for the 2022 exams to be cancelled), but we could really achieve reduced questions!

In the unlikely event that schools move online for the 2021/2022 school year, or if the State Exams 2022 are cancelled, we need to have Contingency Plans in place before October 2021. We cannot have a situation where students are worried and frustrated about their future because the Minister failed to plan ahead. Clear and concise Contingency Plans offer student clarity, something the ISSU fights extremely hard for students.

I also wish to carry on the excellent work the Education Officer, Education Working Group & I have completed this year on Senior Cycle Reform. In early April we launched the groundbreaking report on Senior Cycle Reform which was hugely successful. Furthermore we are now writing a research paper, also in conjunction with the ESRI. This groundbreaking data will be crucial to the ISSU's position on Senior Cycle Reform in the coming years, and it's important the next Education Officer is well-versed in this area, like I am. I plan to look closely at TY reform, LCA reform, the CAO points process & continuation to higher or further education, and to work closely with the USI and consult third level students as well.

MANIFESTO

JACK4EDUCATION

Jack McGinn

Vote **Jack McGinn** #1 for
Education Officer

Young. Genuine. Hardworking.



@Jack4Education

I go into more detail on my Insta!

Senior Cycle Reform

- Survey students in higher & further education.
- Lobby government TDs to raise the issue of Senior Cycle Reform in the Dáil.
- Get students talking about Senior Cycle Reform and how they can lobby their local TDs/Senators.
- Continue to lobby stakeholders using our ISSU 2021 Senior Cycle Reform Report and our excellent data to back up our positions.
- Have a focused look at RSE.
- Create an ISSU Position Paper on Senior Cycle Reform, again using our brilliant data!

State Exams 2022

- Survey, to find what the incoming 3rd and 6th year students want to happen in relation to their exams before Christmas 2021.
- Fight for reduced questions for both the JC & LC (Papers 1 & 2).
- Lobby the Minister of Education to recognize the time lost over the past two years & to take action on it.
- Contingency Plans in place by October 2021.
- I pledge to work day and night for all students! I want to amplify what students want, to bring your voice to the table.

TY Reform

- Update the ISSU 2014 TY Report. This is also a Directive Policy from EA 2021.
- Survey the 4th, 5th, & 6th years on their experience of TY and their thoughts on TY Reform.
- Set up an Education Team to guide this report.
- This report will be brilliant alongside the ISSU 2021 Senior Cycle Reform Report!

Experience

- Secretary of the ISSU Education Working Group ran by the Education Officer (Worked on Senior Cycle Reform).
- ISSU Religion Working Group ran by the International Officer and the Deputy President.
- ISSU Presidential Support Team ran by the President.
- OBESSU European Change Markers Academy Multiplier.

My name is Jack McGinn & I'm a 3rd Year student from Limerick City. I'm **young, genuine & hard-working**. If elected I'll be in TY so I'll be able to devote my time to the ISSU & you the students. I'm currently Secretary of the Education WG & have been working on Senior Cycle Reform. I'm also on the Religion WG the Presidential WG. I want to **amplify** your voice and bring it directly to our decision-makers. Enjoy AA and Vote Jack McGinn #1 for Education :D

EDUCATION OFFICER

OIFIGEACH OIDEACHAIS

TAMMY WHELAN

St. Augustine's College

6th Year



ABOUT ME

Hi everybody, My name is Tammy Whelan! I'm 18 and I use she/her pronouns. I'm from Dungarvan, Waterford and unfortunately I am a LC2021 student!

I've been advocating for both students and young people since I began secondary school. I began this journey through the wonderful Waterford Comhairle na nÓg, and through my local activism there I was elected to represent Waterford nationally with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). I worked on topics such as challenging stereotypes, homelessness, and drug and alcohol misuse. I've been trusted to represent this committee at two annual plenary meetings of Waterford Council.

Through my work with DCYA, I worked on the topic of Inequality in Schools, in particular Student Voice and Individuality. Our projects 'Teach Me as Me' and 'Our Voices Our School' were presented directly to the previous Minister for Education Dr Katherine Zappone. Working on the topic of education on a national level made me hugely passionate about the topic, which is one of the main reasons why I've decided to run for the NSE. I want to improve the quality of education that students receive in Ireland.

Currently, I'm a democratically elected regional officer for the union. I've worked on the campaign for clarity surrounding the state exams, and have facilitated both TownHalls the union has run in order to support students throughout the leaving cert ordeal, one of my main goals of the past few months has been easing the stress of other 6th years in the country and I want to do that at a national level. I'm a strong advocate for mental health, LGBTQ+ rights, and I've recently become more involved in fighting the climate crisis. I'm excited to get more involved in advocating for students across Ireland!

PAST EXPERIENCE

I spent three years working with Waterford Comhairle na nÓg improving my local area on topics such as drug and alcohol misuse, and challenging stereotypes. I've built a strong relationship with both the young people and representatives of my area. The knowledge, resources and expertise I've gained from this would be highly valuable to the role of Education Officer

I represented Waterford for 2 years on the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive, working on inequality in schools

with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. I have the unique experience of working with government departments in regards to education, here I developed a passion for creating change within the education system. I believe my experience so far is essential to creating that change.

I am a democratically elected Waterford Regional Officer, my role is to be the Waterford voice within our union and stand up for our rights as students. I aim to take my regional experience and expand it to a national level. I'm a member of Waterford CYPSC Social Inclusion and Participation Sub-Group, which aims to leave no young person left behind within our county. Every young person has the right to education. I want to help more young people become engaged with the education system, to ensure that students are at the forefront of any reform. I've been working tirelessly on the Vote At 16 campaign through both social media engagement and lobbying politicians. My experience of lobbying politicians is unique and makes me the most suitable candidate for such a representative role.

I'm a member of Ireland's first bilingual youth arts festival, Féile Péacóg, I hope to become involved in more upcoming, modern projects that can uplift and defend student voice!

MY PLANS

I want to improve the grassroots engagement of the union by holding interactive events in regards to education in Ireland as to be fully representative of our members.

I want to lobby the Minister of Education to create an Advisory Group for the 2022 State Exams so that there are adequate provisions in place for both exam years.

I want to create a Junior Cycle Short Course in regards to voting education to coincide with the Vote At 16 campaign.

I want to support the work of the religion working group to reform Religious Education throughout all secondary schools.

I want to establish stronger relationships with other education stakeholders by holding regular meetings with other unions to see how we can strengthen and support the improvement of education in Ireland.

I want to continue the Empathy for Emergencies campaign to allow students to sit remedial state exams if an emergency situation arises throughout their exam period.

I want to contribute to the reform of sexuality and relationship education to ensure that students in Ireland receive comprehensive and inclusive sex education.

I want to continue the work of previous education officers through senior cycle reform.

I want to make the work of the education officer more transparent by giving monthly updates of my work to all members of the union.

MANIFESTO

About Me

My name is Tammy Whelan, I'm 18 and I use she/her pronouns! I'm currently in 6th year and I'm hoping to study law next year!



My Goals

- Make the 2022 exam students a top priority of the union
- Reform Political Education at Junior Cycle and increase the amount of schools offering Politics and Society at Senior Cycle
- Increase student representation with key education stakeholders
- Continue the Empathy for Emergencies campaign
- Continue the union's tremendous work on Senior Cycle Reform
- Reform Religious Education with the Religion Working Group
- Improve the quality of Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Improve the grassroots engagement of the union and work on key educational issues

Tammy Whelan

For Education Officer

My Experience

- 3 years on Waterford Comhairle na nÓg
- 2 years on the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive
- ISSU Waterford Regional Officer
- member of Waterford CYPSC Social Inclusion and Participation Sub Group
- member of the ISSU Religion working group
- member of Ireland's first bilingual youth arts festival, Féile Péacóg
- member of the ISSU Vote at 16 working group
- Helped organise the unions Senior Cycle Reform Symposium
- member of the Safety over Stigma campaign

Follow my Campaign!



@Tammy4Education



@Tammy4Edu

#Tam4Ed

For transparent and quality representation

DISABILITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH AN MHÍCHUMAIS

AKENO "GOOSE" BARRETT

Coláiste an Chroí Naofa

6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Akeno Barrett, commonly referred to as Goose. I am a seventeen-year-old Leaving Certificate student from Cork County. I am a so-called qualified underdog. Since the age of ten, I wanted to make a difference. I am the minority of the minorities, and I have had my ups and downs. Being a disabled, Taiwanese, queer, and transgender immigrant living in the Irish countryside is an achievement in its own right.

When I began my journey into activism, my core focus was to become a lawyer. Almost eight years later, and unsurprisingly, I still want to be a lawyer. Previously, I believe that the hefty salary and the concept of "being paid to argue" were my incentives to study law. Now, I have a lot more perspective. I am appalled by the overwhelming amount of atrocities committed every day. The horrific stories of racist attacks, the disheartening vote against climate protection, war, and so many more. With my keen interest in literature, I know that I want to use my words and create change. There are many elements of my very being, but writing is my everything. From freelance journalism to lengthy poetry, I put everything into my artistry. Society often ignores the several elephants in the room, but I use my words to convey messages of substance. I may not change the world, but I want to make it a more equitable environment.

Of course, I am so immensely passionate about representing disabled students from around the country. I have cerebral palsy (left hemiplegia), and I know first-hand how hard secondary school is when you deviate a tad from the typical student. I want to protect students from scenarios that I certainly could have avoided if I had the right support system: I want to make a difference.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I am the current Student Council Vice-Chairperson and ISSU School Representative for Coláiste an Chroí Naofa. I took the initiative last year to formally involve my school with ISSU and apply for membership. As Vice-Chairperson, I try my best to uplift the student voice. I am always running a fundraiser or awareness campaign. Of course, because of COVID-19, the duties of the Student Council changed. I became the coordinator of the sixth-year representative team designated to represent the year group during online learning. We entered weekly discussions with our principal, deputy principal and year head to help ensure the facilitation of the virtual classroom was running smoothly. It was a rare experience, but these engagements benefited our school's Leaving Certificate students.

Before the beginning of Fifth-Year, I underwent a week of mentorship training at Scala Cork. I served as Chairperson of our Meitheal team in 2020. The Meitheal Youth Leadership Programme facilitated by Scala was an excellent opportunity to build my leadership skills. It enhanced my negotiation, mentoring, communication and time management abilities. Concurrently, I served as an Amber Flag Committee Member during my term as Meitheal Chairperson. Our school received an Amber Flag in 2020 for our proud efforts of raising awareness, dismantling stigmas, and educating our peers.

Because of the lockdown, I participated in the digital version of this year's Munster Regional Session of the EYP. In 2019, I also partook in NatMUN at UCC. Since 2013, I have an involvement in the guiding and scouting community. I earned a silver Chief Commissioner Award with CGI in 2018. My project consisted of various tasks including, applying the Sustainable Development Goals to my personal life and locality. I count this project as my formal introduction to activism. I could bring my existing skill-set to the role of disability officer.

MY PLANS

As an elected official, I can bring a fresh perspective to the NSE. I would use my position to create a healthy and equitable climate for disabled students. I have adopted the phrase "Enable the Disabled" for campaign purposes. My main concern is to enable disabled students to have an above-average school experience, like most physically able and neurotypical teenagers. I aim to bring more recognition, equity, and protection to the disabled community.

With my background, experiences and knowledge of various disabilities, I believe it is possible to implement comprehensive accessibility guidelines for all second-level educational facilities. The importance of accessibility is often under-recognised as its definition varies from person to person.

My younger brother and I both suffer from disabilities. Whereas my brother has Tourette syndrome, a classified neurodevelopmental disorder, I have a permanent movement disorder. Hemiplegia is a type of cerebral palsy that results from damage to the parts of the brain that control muscle movements. Tourette syndrome is a disorder that involves repetitive movements or unwanted sounds (tics) that are excessively difficult to control. Although our disabilities are different, we both understand the hardships of academic life as disabled students. Whether a student is neurodivergent or has a physical disability, accessibility is vital in our academic life. With the aid of a working group, I can develop external guidelines as the disability officer by examining the various disabilities.

Discrimination is something many of us face during school, whether it is intentional or not. Part of the duties of the disability officer is to protect disabled students from harmful exclusion. I aim to adhere to this duty with the utmost respect. Education is one of the easiest methods of preventing discrimination. By collaborating on awareness campaigns with experts, I can help avert bigotry in the second-level education setting.

MANIFESTO

AKENO "GOOSE" BARRETT

DISABILITY OFFICER
CANDIDATE 2021/22



he/they
(sé/siad)
A-kyeah-no

#EnableTheDisabled

My name is Akeno Barrett (commonly known as Goose), and I am a sixth-year student from Cork County. After years of feeling ashamed of my disability, I finally understand there is no shame, just stigma. I want all disabled students to live free of embarrassment and to witness the dismantling of stigmas.

RECOGNITION

One of my main objectives as the disability officer is for disabled students in Second-Level Education to receive better recognition. By identifying issues unique to the disabled community, I can help ensure we receive the vital supports that we require. Appropriate acknowledgement of disabilities, notably uncommon disabilities, will ensure that all teaching staff can assist all students.

EQUITY

Another one of my aims as the elected officer is to advocate for equity among disabled students. All disabled students are unique in their own right and deserve fair and desirable treatment. Equity ensures that all students receive a just education that draws the individual's potential to its fullest.

PROTECTION

My final main objective is to protect disabled students from discrimination as best I can. Additionally, defending our opinions is equally as important. By uplifting and encouraging disabled voices to join leading discussions, I will protect our right to be involved in decisions that directly concern us.

Policies: As disability the officer I would...

- Engage with organisations like Enable Ireland and the Cope Foundation to collaborate on awareness campaigns.
- Implement a working group to develop external accessibility guidelines for students.
- Operate alongside the International and Equality Officer to coordinate efforts across OBESSU.
- Lobby for intersectional representation for students as stakeholders in education.
- Provide a medium for both neurotypical and physically disabled students to present their issues.
- Propose public consultations with students.
- Support students with resources to foster inclusive environments at schools.
- Help ensure that all students have equal access to second-level education.

EXPERIENCE

- Student Council Vice-Chairperson/ISSU School Representative (2020/21)
- Coordinator of the Sixth-Year Representative Online-Learning Discussions (2021)
- Regional EYP Delegate (2021)
- Chairperson of the Scala Meitheal Mentoring Team (2019/2020)
- Amber Flag Committee Member (2019/2020)
- NatMUN Participant (2019)
- Scouting/Guiding Ireland (2013-2020)



DISABILITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH AN MHÍCHUMAIS

MAX FULHAM

**Mount Temple Comprehensive
School**
5th Year



ABOUT ME

Hi!

I'm Max Fulham, a 16-year-old activist from Dublin City. I'm a 5th-year student at Mount Temple. I'm running to be the inaugural Disability Officer of the ISSU. During my campaign, I will practice what I preach, I will endeavor to make all my materials accessible using alt text, captions. I believe that no student should be left behind in the work of the ISSU. Every student has the right to education, and that should not be hindered by a disability.

You're probably asking yourself, why vote for me? I'm asking for your vote at ISSU Annual Assembly as I have a raft of experiences in activism and working with students with disabilities. I have the ideas, the plans and policies, and the ability to see them implemented.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I won't lie to you, I won't bluff out a false list of engagements. I want to be an officer who is honest with the students I will represent.

I have worked as a young leader in scouts, assisting with the youngest sections, Beavers, and Cubs. Additionally, within Scouting, I was part of the smallest successful patrol at Phoenix Challenge, achieving silver in 2019.

After the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020, I started to engage with the ISSU. I have attended the Skills Academy in August 2020, followed by numerous events. In December, I joined the National Education Working Group, which recently launched the Senior Cycle Reform Report. In this Working Group, I lead the way in including SEN representation in our work, by ensuring that we liaise with representative organizations of SEN students, such as NCBI and NCSE.

In November 2019, I joined the Climate Strike movement, which saw me work at the highest level of organising for Climate Action. I was part of an amazing team in the Date Planning and Polling Working Group who lead the coordination and selection of multiple Global Climate Strikes, September 25th, and March 19th.

I am currently an ECMA multiplier with the ISSU and OBESSU.

And finally to wrap up this section, I'm an international and national organiser of Climate Live, a series of youth-led Climate Concerts in over 40 countries. I'm the Tech and Digital Coordinator (to be).

MY PLANS

Reform DARE

I will work towards a one step application process for Disability Access Route to Education scheme, explore alternatives to the Personal Statement, and campaign to lower mandatory teacher input from 2 to 1.

Further RACE

I will work with the NCBI/NCSE to allow students to use their accommodations from day 1 of 5th year, I will campaign for the easing of restrictions on the use of low-use technology.

Peer Support

I want to ensure that students are comfortable using technology in class. I will pilot programs that will see the establishment of student support groups in schools, where students can learn about disabilities and celebrate our diversity. If a student is reluctant to use technology as they don't want to stand out, I would like to see another student in the class use similar technology so that the primary student doesn't stand out, and feels more comfortable.

Drop Boxes

I will work with ROs, and ISSU representatives to implement drop boxes in schools, where students can drop their concerns and asks for help. Students often feel uncomfortable raising these issues in class, and won't raise their concerns at all. I believe that if implemented we can significantly help students.

Disability Assembly

We need to change from after-the-fact reporting and solving. I believe that if we create an open platform for students to come together, we can truly begin to help students in real-time. I want to help students here and now. I will do this in collaboration with NCSE, NCBI, and the IGC

I will immediately set up a Disability Working Group to fight for students, to work together and to learn from each other.

The Disability Working Group will work together to fight for disabled students, set up by the start of the new academic year.

MANIFESTO

HI I'M MAX

CANDIDATE FOR DISABILITY OFFICER



My name is Max Fulham, a 5th year student from Mount Temple, Dublin. I'm 16, with a visual impairment. I am passionate about inclusive education. It infuriates me to hear that students are sitting in silence in class without the support that they need. That's why I am running for Disability Officer.

I've worked with the ISSU Education Working Group on Senior Cycle Reform, Scouting Ireland on World Scout Moot planning, Climate Live on Global Concerts, FFF on Climate Strikes and lots more.

SCHOOL SUPPORTS

Peer Support

I want to ensure that students are comfortable using technology in class. I will pilot programs that will see the establishment of student support groups in schools, where students can learn about disabilities and celebrate our diversity. If a student is reluctant to use technology as they don't want to stand out, I would like to see another student in the class use similar technology so that the primary student doesn't stand out, and feels more comfortable.

Drop Boxes

I will work with ROs, and ISSU representatives to implement drop boxes in schools, where students can drop their concerns and asks for help. Students often feel uncomfortable raising these issues in class, and won't raise their concerns at all. I believe that if implemented we can significantly help students.

STATE LEVEL SUPPORTS

Disability Access Route To Education

The current set of three deadlines is stress-inducing in an extremely stressful year. There is immense uncertainty around the points change due to the DARE scheme, I will lobby with the IGC and IUA for reforms to DARE.

Reasonable Accommodations for Certificate Examinations

Students should be able to try different assistive technologies before use in state examinations. Students must be able to use technology that they are familiar with. I will work with the NCBI and NCSE to ease regulations on low-incidence technology.

INCLUDING DISABLED VOICES

Disability Forum

We need to change from after-the-fact reporting and solving. I believe that if we create an open platform for students to come together, we can truly begin to help students in real-time. I want to help students here and now. I will do this in collaboration with NCSE, NCBI, and the IGC.

Disability Working Group

I will immediately set up a Disability Working Group to fight for students, to work together and to learn from each other.

FOLLOW THE CAMPAIGN

[instagram.com/votefulham](https://www.instagram.com/votefulham)
twitter.com/votefulham
fb.me/votefulham
vote.maxfulham.xyz

DISABILITY OFFICER

OIFIGEACH AN MHÍCHUMAIS

OISÍN PUTT

Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh
6th Year



ABOUT ME

My name is Oisín, I am 18 years old and I am a 6th year student in an all Irish speaking secondary school in Rathfarnham. I am a para-athlete and disability advocate. I'm a writer and am currently running to political platforms. I am the founder of AwarenessOverload.com which is an online platform for the disabled community. I am also the Vice-president of an online platform dedicated to promoting youth in politics: Project Patriarchy is a non-partisan organization run by young political activists from all over the world with the primary goal of advocating for the role of young people in the world of politics today.

PAST EXPERIENCE

I have been a disability advocate for over two years. Being a wheelchair user in a mainstream secondary school myself I have been able to pinpoint some key issues in terms of inclusivity and accessibility within secondary schools today.

I have vast experience in working with other writers/activists and I am currently a member of the equality team, run by the equality officer of the ISSU

MY PLANS

My main goal in running for disability officer within the NSE would be to be a strong representative for the members of the disabled community within mainstream secondary schools and I believe I would bring a new found perspective to the organization. Where as most political representatives would address disability rights issues that fall under healthcare, I would be focusing on issues related to social, socioeconomic, and most importantly the educational needs of the student with a disability.

MANIFESTO

Oisín for Disability Officer



"Your only disability is your inability to see your true capability"

About me

- I am a sixth year student at an all Irish speaking school in Rathfarnham 'Gaelcholaiste an Phiarsaigh'.
- I was born with a disability called Spina Bifida and have been a wheelchair user for most of my life.
- I have been a disability advocate for over two years and have worked with multiple organisations including the ISSU.
- I'm a para-athlete and have always been a fierce advocate for wheelchair sports in mainstream schools.

MY POLICIES

- I plan to form a diverse working group to tackle issues concerning physical, invisible, intellectual/developmental disabilities etc...
- I plan to examine/reform the PE curriculum to make it more inclusive for wheelchair users and people with mobility issues.
- I plan to organise awareness campaigns on words and phrases that are used or missused within the disabled community.
- Since I am a proud Irish speaker I will also be Organising campaigns to expand students vocabulary on terms used for people with disabilities, translated into Irish.

MAC ELECTIONS

MONITORING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COISTE MONATÓIREACHTA AGUS COMHAIRLEACH

MATTHEW COLGAN

ISSU School Rep

Nominated by Wexford Regional Officer



ABOUT ME

I have had a wealth of experience within the ISSU bit also with other similar organisations which I feel give me a great insight into the role of MAC

For the last six years up until October 2020, I have been a member of Wexford Comhairle na nOg, where I served as Chairperson and soon after, National Executive, it was there I gained many skills in organisation and experience in student voice and Student Advocacy

Within the ISSU I have had loads of experience, In 2018 I was elected by my student council as Student Representative and I then attended many events such as Skills Academy 2019! In the summer of 2020 I was then elected to the NSE as Secretary all of these has given me an insight into the internal structure of the ISSU

WORKING WITH ISSU STRUCTURES

From my previous experience within the ISSU I have a great knowledge of internal structures and the constitution which I had a hand in developing from my role on the NSE

WORKING WITH ISSU DOCUMENTS

I have a great understanding of the ISSU's Official Documents. I played a hand in the development of the Constitution and I co-wrote the Annual Assembly procedure alongside the Secretariat

WHY ME?

I think that I would be a suitable candidate because of my extensive experience internally and externally. Due to my experience I think that I bring a clear perspective to the work of the ISSU and can advise on a wide range of topics and issues that may arise.

MANIFESTO

Matthew Colgan

For MAC

ABOUT ME

- 18 Year Old, 6th Year Student.
- Former Chairperson of Wexford Comhairle Na nÓg.
- Former Comhairle Na nÓg: National Executive.
- Chairperson of my Student's Council.
- Webwise Ambassador.
- Winner of the Irish Lions Young Ambassador of the 21st Century Award 2020.



WHY AM I RUNNING?

I am running for MAC because I feel that I have the experience and knowledge that is required of a member of the MAC due to my time as a ISSU School Rep. and NSE Secretary, which gave me an insight into the internal policies and structure of the ISSU.

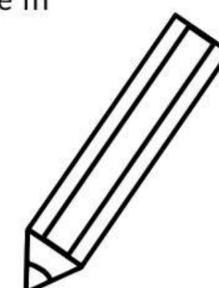


WHAT DO I WANT

My goal as a member of the MAC is to ensure that the Union is operating at an above excellent standard and that the elected bodies of the ISSU are conducting themselves in a manner concurrent with the Constitution and in the best representative way possible

HOW I CAN DO THIS

I believe that the best way to reach the goals that I have set out is by working with members of the NSE and the R.O.B to ensure that the ISSU continues to uphold and defend student voice in the best way possible.



**A VOTE FOR MATTHEW IS A
VOTE FOR A BETTER ISSU!!**

MONITORING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COISTE MONATÓIREACHTA AGUS COMHAIRLEACH

BETH DOHERTY

Outgoing NSE Member

Nominated by the NSE



ABOUT ME

Having been actively involved in ISSU and youth activism for the last two years, I want to use my experience and drive to work towards improving the union and assisting its development.

I am the current Sustainability Officer of the ISSU, serving the first full term of the role. During the term, I have worked to develop the role and the presence of sustainability within the Union. I have created and coordinated two Working Groups. Amongst other projects, I gained the ISSU a seat on the Department of Education Advisory Group on Education for Sustainable Development and organised the Sustainability Consultation. This experience has given me insight into the workings of the NSE and Union as a whole, as well as the importance of engaging membership and a wide variety of students in our work.

Alongside this, I worked actively on the Constitutional Reform WG as we prepared the proposed Constitution for this year's EA, which enabled me to understand the workings and nuances of the ISSU Constitution and structures. This also highlighted to me possible areas for reform within the Union, and ways in which officers can be assisted to ensure the voice of our membership is fully implemented across all work. I have also been providing team support, giving me experience in working as part of a team within the ISSU and an appreciation of the wider context of work done by individual officers in the Union.

Outside of this, I have worked with Fridays For Future, SpunOut, EYP, the Comhairle National Executive and various other youth organisations. I believe this gives me a blend of the necessary grounding in the ISSU, as well as a fresh perspective from work outside of the ISSU which would assist me in delivering for students as a member of the MAC.

WORKING WITH ISSU STRUCTURES

Our most fundamental structure is our member schools and the students we represent. These are the driving force behind all other ISSU structures and decisions, and form our highest decision-making body: our Annual Assembly. It is imperative that this structure is effectively engaged in the Union, that all structures are accountable to them, and that we continue to grow engagement with members.

The Regional Officer Body is the Union at a grassroots level. Their role is to lead and represent the Union at a

local level, developing student voice and the presence of the ISSU across the country. They play a crucial role in communicating with the NSE and supporting student voice in their region, and are central to our growth as a grassroots union and movement for student voice.

At a national level, the NSE leads the Union through a collaborative and representative approach. It is their role to ensure the views of students are effectively represented at a national level, and to above all else act in a representative manner in all decisions and stances. They should liaise with the ROB and member schools throughout their decision-making, and work to lead the Union throughout their elected term.

The MAC works to ensure our work is constitutional, in line with Directive Policies, and to ensure accountability to membership. They work to provide support and guidance for officers through reports and recommendations to strengthen the work of the Union, and to give feedback and advice on the development of the organisation. They are central to ensuring the voice of the membership is heard in the Union.

These structures interact with one another to deliver an effective Union, and as a MAC member, I hope to work to develop engagement with and effectiveness of each structure to allow us to provide the best platform for student voice possible.

WORKING WITH ISSU DOCUMENTS

Working as an NSE member and on Constitutional Reform has given me a deep insight into the workings of our two main documents.

Our Constitution is the Union's guiding star. It is the voice of the membership at the roots of all workings of the ISSU and its elected officers. Its importance is demonstrated by the - majority needed to pass an amendment at AA, and it is central to all functions, decisions and structures of the ISSU. It has undergone great reform in the last number of years, mirroring the development and evolution of the ISSU itself. If elected to the MAC, I will work to ensure its implementation and that each officer understands its gravity and workings within the Union. It is fundamental to the role of the MAC to oversee the implementation of the Constitution and to provide guidance for how it can be properly observed by all officers, which I will work to deliver in the role.

The Directive Policy book serves to further the voice of the membership within the workings of the Union and its officers. The policies passed by a simple majority at AA provide direction and priority for the work of officers, giving a clear roadmap of what our members feel the Union must deliver on. As a member of the MAC, I would hope to aid officers in understanding their respective DPs, and work to ensure they are effectively prioritising and incorporating them into their work as an elected officer.

Our documents place the voice of the membership at the forefront, and as a representative organisation it is crucial that every officer understands and is able to fully implement these documents into their work. Therefore, as a MAC member, I would work to provide officers with this and support them to implement them in their work.

WHY ME?

As a candidate for the MAC, I bring experience within the ISSU; a fresh perspective and creativity; analytical skills; and above all, dedication to the voice of our membership in the Union and a vision for our development.

My experience within the ISSU in relation to sustainability and the Constitution allows me to understand the workings of the Union, and how we interact with our membership. It has highlighted to me areas in which our engagement with members can be improved. Furthermore, it has shown me the importance of ensuring transparency with membership, and full engagement with and understanding of our guiding documents.

Furthermore, as a relatively new officer of the ISSU and with experience in many other organisations outside of the Union, I bring a fresh perspective to the recommendations of the MAC. As the Union develops, so too must our approach to implementing policy and ensuring accountability to membership. This will aid me in making innovative and creative solutions to problems presented, and develop fresh approaches through recommendations and working with my fellow MAC members.

I also bring analytical skills, developed through working on the NSE as well as experience such as working on the CCI Supreme Court case. This will aid me in analysing and interpreting our key documents such as the Constitution, and in ensuring the voice of the membership is effectively heard.

Finally, over the course of my time on the NSE, I have developed a dedication to ensuring the voice of the membership is effectively heard, that we represent students to the best of our ability, and that officers are supported to ensure students' voices are at the forefront of every decision they make. I will bring this dedication and vision to my role as a MAC member, to aid in developing the Union to represent students at every level.

MANIFESTO

BETH4MAC

YOUR UNION, YOUR VOICE



WHO AM I?

I'm Beth, I'm 17, and I'm running with a **vision of the voice of membership** at the forefront of everything the ISSU does to ensure we have a **representative, accountable** union fighting for student voice.

EXPERIENCE

- ISSU experience has given me an insight into ISSU's **workings**, central to fulfilling the role of the MAC.
- My experience outside of the ISSU allows me to bring a **fresh perspective** to recommendations, **blending experience and innovation**.

ACCOUNTABILITY

I'll focus on ensuring officers remain accountable to membership across all decisions taken.

- Expand **current monitoring** to include the ROB
- Monitor the **publication** of meeting minutes, decisions taken and the rationale given by officers.
- Circulate a **monthly pack** of NSE reports, media engagement and minutes to ISSU school reps
- Ensure **officer logs** are publicly available
- Create **channels** for membership to submit questions or concerns about the workings of the Union.
- Encourage and support a review of ISSU **membership policy**

SUPPORT AND FEEDBACK

I'll provide officers with support and advice throughout the year, to aid the Union's development and our ability to deliver for students.

- Integrate documents and how to consult membership into start-of-term **training**
- Oversee implementation and review of internal policies including **accessibility, welfare, and Gaeilge**.
- Develop best practice for **grassroots engagement** with ROB and school reps
- Reform **current reports**
- Involve the MAC in **training and resources**
- Provide regular recommendations particularly around empowering membership

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

I'll work to ensure membership is actively consulted and engaged at all levels of the ISSU and that all work has a representative basis.

- Include **membership engagement** and the **representative backing** of decisions/campaigns in officer reports.
- Constitution **cheat sheet** and **plain English** versions of documents
- **Monthly guide** to NSE work completed for membership.
- Develop **training** for consultation and engagement
- Aid in increasing **accessibility** of consultation.
- Examine expansion of the school reps system
- Encourage a **yearly EA** to discuss policy and amendments

ISSU:

I'm currently the first elected NSE Sustainability Officer, in the role I have:

- Coordinated two Working Groups of 37 students total
- Gained the ISSU a seat on the DES Advisory Group on Education for Sustainable Development.
- Built relationships with stakeholders
- Organised the Digital Sustainability Consultation and Debate-Your-Decision-Makers event
- Worked on:
 - Green Schools reform
 - The Constitutional Reform WG
 - Return to School survey and report

NON-ISSU

- Student activist for the last 2.5 years
- Organiser with FFF
- EYP volunteer
- Comhairle National Executive
- SpunOut Action Panel

@BETHFORMAC

MONITORING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COISTE MONATÓIREACHTA AGUS COMHAIRLEACH

EIMAN ELSIR

Former NSE Member

Nominated by the NSE



ABOUT ME

My name's Eiman, I'm currently a Leaving Cert student from Kildare and I'm hoping to study Law next year. I served on the NSE of 2019/20 as Communications Officer. I ran for Communications Officer as I wanted to ensure that every member of the union is fully aware of the Trojan work ISSU do each year. I wanted to spread awareness to ISSU as I found that a lot of people didn't even realise that they were members and therefore missed out on all the incredible opportunities ISSU had to offer.

During my time, I ran the social media pages and our Instagram following increased greatly. My aim was to allow our followers to see what the NSE got up to and to see more than infographics but the faces of the NSE and our members at events. We were able to maintain professionalism but also a sense of informality and friendliness.

A big achievement for me, was getting to re-vamp the ISSU website. We gave it a fresh modern look and updated it regularly with events, blogposts and publications. As well, I set up ISSU's first ever email newsletter, which is sent out monthly to hundreds of subscribers. It is the go-to place to and easiest way to reach out to our members and make sure they were aware of the work that got on in the union and to avail of any opportunities. Overall, I'm very proud of my year on the NSE and I want to ensure that the strong foundations that have been put in place in recent years are still standing as well as supporting new ideas.

WORKING WITH ISSU STRUCTURES

First and foremost, the ISSU is student-led. Student Councils can opt to join the ISSU through a membership, making the whole school body a member of ISSU.

Membership allows schools to avail of student council training, can be represented by the union, can have voting rights at AA and an EGM as well as nominate a student to run for elections for any of ISSU's structural bodies.

The Board of Directors govern the ISSU and uphold the constitution and set the budget. They are representatives from the education sector, past ISSU officers and anyone else who would have relevant experience to fulfil the role.

The MAC, ensure that elected officers are upholding the constitution and are in line with ISSU policy. The MAC also provide guidance and support, since the MAC is comprised of past NSE officers, ROB officers and Working Group Members.

The NSE are the public representatives of the union. They work to represent members within their assigned remits. Each individual role reflects a different aspect of students lives. The NSE ensure that student voice is heard at every occasion when it is needed. Any NSE member can set up a working group to aid them in tackling a certain issue within their mandate.

Each region is represented by 2 elected Regional Officers. They work alongside the NSE to achieve our union's mission statement but on a regional level. They deal with student issues that are occurring only on a regional level. They recruit new schools to ISSU membership and are vital for ensuring a regionally balanced union.

The secretariat are staff members that support the administrative and operational work that is needed to be carried out on a day to day basis. The NSE will have a say in any changes to the secretariat

WORKING WITH ISSU DOCUMENTS

A new constitution has been passed at the EGM that took place during the Easter break. The constitution outlines ISSU's vision statement and aims and specifically how these aims are to be achieved. This new constitution, is what I would be using as the basis of my work as a member of the MAC. I will use it to ensure that the elected officers are representing students in line with the procedures outlined in the constitution. I understand that this constitution can be amended by a two thirds plus one vote at either AA or at an EGM.

The Policy Book outlines ISSU's stances on certain student issues. The policy book is made by members and is always subject to updates and proposals at AA and an EGM. As a member of MAC, it would be my job to ensure the Policy book that any tasks carried out by elected officers are in line with the policy book.

The Directive Mandates book mandates tasks for elected offices to complete within their term. A mandate expires after 3 years of being passed, so the mandate would carry through for the next elected officer. As a member of MAC, it would be my job to support the implementation of the directive mandates.

Both the Directive Mandates book and the Policy Book, must not invalidate the constitution. If there are any conflicts between either two documents and the constitution the MAC has the power to deem any appeals invalid.

WHY ME?

As a recent member of the NSE, I know how necessary it is for every member of the executive to be held accountable for their tasks. It is an honour but also a big responsibility to be elected to represent students either nationally or regionally. I want to ensure that the officers are taking their role seriously. I want to make it as easy as possible for elected officers to report to the MAC, when I was on the NSE, I found the methods of communication between the NSE and MAC to be slightly tedious. I want to change that. I will work with my fellow MAC members to crest a simple but comprehensive method for elected officers to update the MAC on their work which will make our job easier and can improve efficiency within the organisation.

My past experience will allow me to have empathy for the officers. I understand fully what it is like to receive burn out or fee overwhelmed or uninspired. I can approach this role with compassion for the officers and can guide them through their low points by being considerate.

I want ensure that the NSE and ROB feel no worries over coming to the MAC for help or assistance for fear of being judged. I can approach this role with full confidentiality and with a smile. I will work to establish a strong relationship with the elected offices to make sure that they can come to me for support and guidance. The welfare of the officers are my number 1 priority.

MANIFESTO

MONITORING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE MANIFESTO

EIMAN
ELSIR

MY EXPERIENCE

My experience within ISSU on the NSE makes me the ideal candidate as I understand ISSU's structures and important documents and the day-to-day running of the union. This will make overseeing the elected officers straightforward as I'm aware of what it's like and can ensure the smooth running of the union.

GUIDANCE

If elected, I will ensure that any events or campaigns that elected officers plan to take up will receive advice before and feedback after the project from the MAC. Any feedback from the MAC must be given in good time in order to maximise efficiency.

ACCOUNTABILITY

I will work for YOU to make sure that our officers are completing tasks that have been mandated in our Directive Mandate and are in line with our Constitution and Policy Book. I will take proactive steps in keeping up to date with all union activity, eliminating that burden from our NSE and ROB.

SUPPORT & EMPATHY

I will work to build a strong relationship between the MAC and elected officers. This will make establishing direct lines of communication more accessible. As a former Comms. Officer, I know what it feels like to feel overwhelmed or uninspired, I will approach my role with empathy, to uplift the welfare of officers, as this will ensure a more active union for all of us.



Your vote for me is a vote for compassion for our elected officers and efficiency in our activism. **Let me give you what you deserve. VOTE #1 Eiman 4 MAC**

MONITORING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COISTE MONATÓIREACHTA AGUS COMHAIRLEACH

KATIE HALPIN-HILL

Outgoing NSE Member

Nominated by the NSE



ABOUT ME

A chairde,

Is mise Katie Halpin-Hill agus táimse ag rith chun a bheith mar bhall de Choiste Monatóireachta ADIÉ.

My name is Katie Halpin-Hill and I am running for a position on this year's Monitoring and Advisory Committee.

I have been involved in the ISSU for years, and I have sat on numerous working groups as well as the Regional Officer Body and the National Student Executive. Throughout my time in ISSU, I have learnt and gained so much knowledge from my fellow officers about both the union and student advocacy as a concept. If elected to the MAC, I would do my best to help other officers as they fight a fair system on behalf of students on both a regional and national level. I would strive for an increased level of accountability and transparency, with an emphasis on welfare. I understand, from my own experience as an officer, the stress and pressure that can be felt during the term; I want to help others, as others have helped me, to ensure that every officer reaches their potential and receives the support they need, while making sure that the NSE as a whole keeps the promises on which they were elected.

WORKING WITH ISSU STRUCUTRES

The ISSU is led from the ground up - led by our member schools who mandate the NSE and ROB respectively to achieve certain tasks for the second-level student body of Ireland.

In terms of representation, the Regional Officer Body is made up of 22 different regions, with two officers representing each region. The role of ISSU School Representative has recently been created, with networks of students from all across the country - with a stronger emphasis than ever on the union at a grassroots level. As the ROB itself as a functional body is relatively new, its progress will need to be monitored closely. The ROB has never been stronger and more effective, which is why it should also be held accountable to its respective regions.

The NSE is the body that represents second-level students on a national level, made up of thirteen elected officers each mandated to work on different topics and aspects of the education system and union. It is

imperative that the NSE be held accountable and that the work of the body is as transparent as possible, especially during national campaigns such as the Leaving Cert. 2020/2021 campaign.

The MAC monitors and holds these two bodies to account, as well as any working groups created during its term. The Board of Directors upholds the ISSU Constitution and passes the budget; this body consists of former ISSU officers, education stakeholders and student representatives.

WORKING WITH ISSU DOCUMENTS

The ISSU's official documents include the Constitution, the Directive Policy book and the Annual Assembly Procedure. The Constitution and Directive Policy book are the two most important documents of the ISSU. They mandate and dictate the work of the NSE based on what has been voted on by the member schools of the union. It is absolutely imperative that these documents be upheld to the highest standard to ensure that the ISSU is as representative and member-led as it can be. I am extremely familiar with these documents, as I have sat on the NSE and have worked on the recent reform of the ISSU Constitution, sitting on the Constitutional Working Group. These documents guided me time and time again when I was an elected officer on both the NSE and ROB, and if elected to the MAC, I will ensure that they remain the guiding light of the union for all elected officers and working group members.

WHY ME?

In my opinion, the two most important qualities of any member of the MAC are experience and knowledge of the union. I first got involved with the ISSU when I was in third year, and four years later I have experience sitting on working groups, the ROB and the NSE. I have experience on a grassroots level, with three years of Student Council Chairperson under my belt in Meánscoil San Nioclás sa Rinn. I also have experience representing the union abroad, and I understand how other European student unions work through my experience with OBESSU. I have been involved in this organisation for years and I really understand just how important transparency and communication are. If elected to the MAC, I will ensure that the bodies representing you are held accountable, but also that officers are provided with the advice and support needed.

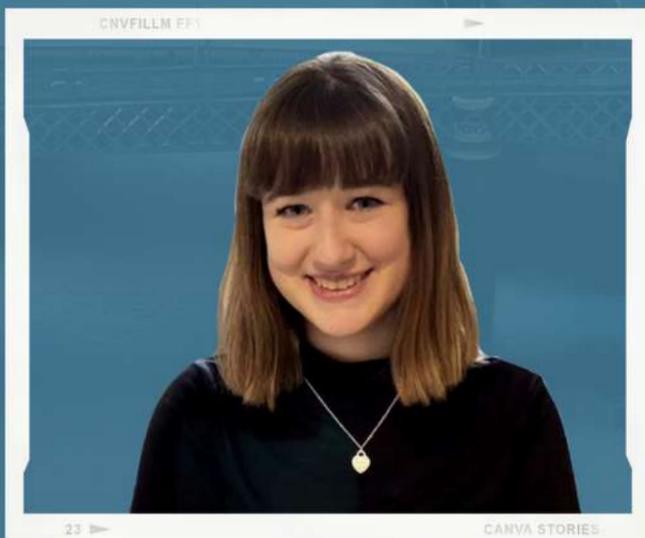
MANIFESTO

Progression

The recently created internal MAC regulations have transformed the role of the body, allowing a structured and analytical approach that benefits both elected officers and the membership. This approach needs to continue, while effectively tailoring their approaches to the next NSE to allow for the different dynamic a new team inevitably brings.

Communication

Open communication between ISSU structures is absolutely imperative to the smooth functioning of the union, especially in an online environment. I understand, from my own experience as an officer, the stress and pressure that can be felt during the term; I want to help others, as others have helped me, to ensure that every officer reaches their potential and receives the support they need. Communication is the key to achieving this; which is why, if elected, I would hold open advice sessions for Regional Officers as well as members of the NSE.



KATIE FOR THE MAC

Accountability

It is imperative that the NSE, as a whole, keeps the promises on which they were elected. It is also important the ROB is held to the same standard. If elected to the MAC, I will ensure that officers are held accountable to their manifestos, the constitution and the membership.

Transparency

Transparency in a growing union is incredibly important. The membership deserve to know how their representatives work and conduct themselves on their behalf. It is imperative that you can trust your elected representatives and your MAC. If elected, I will ensure that the union works in a transparent and democratic manner, with the help of the internal documents that should guide officers in their work.

For more of my policies:



#PACT Progression, Accountability, Communication and Transparency

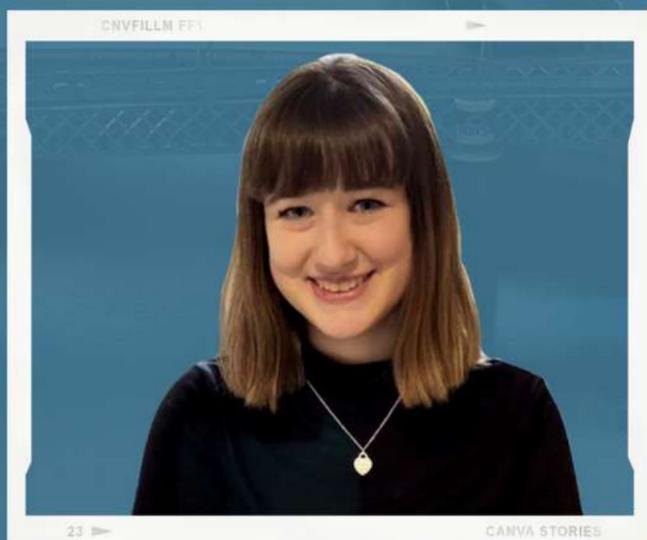
FORÓGRA

Dul Chun Cinn

Tá na treoracha inmheánacha nua don MAC tar éis ról an choiste a athrú, le cur chuige nua agus anailiseach a chuireann struchtúr láidir chun cinn, ceann a chabhraíonn le h-oifigh agus an ballraíocht araon. Caithfidh an cur chuige seo leanúint ar aghaidh, ag úsáid solúbthachta le cinntiú go n-oibreodh sé don chéad Choiste Gnó eile.

Cumarsáid

Tá cumarsáid oscailte idir na struchtúir ISSU rí-thábhachtach, go h-áirithe agus sinn ar líne amháin. Tuigim an bhrú a bhíonn ar Oifigh ó mo thaithí féin; teastaíonn uaim daoine a chabhrú cosúil leis na daoine eile a chabhraigh liomsa i rith m'ama san aontas. Teastaíonn uaimse a chinntiú gur féidir le gach uile Oifigeach a gcuid oibre is fearr a dhéanamh. Is í an chumarsáid an eochar lárnach le seo a dhéanamh agus is í sin an fáth go reachtálfadh mé seisúin chomhairle d'Oifigh Réigiúnacha chomh maith le Coiste Gnó an aontais má thoghfár mé.



KATIE

FOR THE MAC

Cuntasacht

Tá sé rí-thábhachtach go gcoimeádann an NSE na geallúintí a dheineadar sna toghcháin. Má thoghfár mé, cinnteodh mé go bhfuil na h-oifigh uile ag leanúint na geallúintí seo, chomh maith leis an mbunreacht agus mianta na ballraíochta.

Trédhearcacht

Caithfidh an trédhearcacht a bheith lárnach san Aontas. Tá an cheart ag an mballraíocht fios a bheith acu ar an slí ina n-oibríonn a gcuid ionadaithe ar a son. Tá sé rí-thábhachtach gur féidir libhse bhuirín a chur sna hOifigh agus sa Choiste Chomhairleach agus Monatóireachta. Má thoghfár mé, cinnteoidh mé go n-oibríonn an aontas i slí daonlathach agus trédhearcach, ag úsáid na doiciméidí inmheánach cosúil leis an mbunreacht.

Níos mó eolais ar fáil:



#PACT

Dul Chun Cinn, Cuntasacht, Cumarsáid agus Trédhearcacht

MONITORING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COISTE MONATÓIREACHTA AGUS COMHAIRLEACH

JAMIE MCELWAIN

Working Group Member

Nominated by Sustainability Working Group



ABOUT ME

-I have been a member of ISSU since 2020. I'm actively involved in the Sustainability, Education for Sustainable Development and Religion Working Groups. Outside of ISSU, I play a leading role in our local Scout troop, helping me to show organisation skills in an observer roll within an organisation. I am also involved in FFF, the ISPC CAC, and Comhairle na nÓg among other groups. I act as the PRO for our Comhairle, this along with being PR Manager for our TY Musical, and being a photographer, has handed me skills that include teamwork, organisation and understanding of structure.

WORKING WITH ISSU STRUCTURES

The ISSU is, as often known, 'Run by Students, for Students'. The NSE is an elected group of students who represent student voice at a national level in specific areas of interest (for example, education, sustainability). These 13 members of the NSE are elected at AA, and a president (An Uachtarán) is elected to represent ISSU and all students that fall under it. The 22 Regional Officers are elected at Regional Council and make up the ROB. These ROs are elected to represent local students at a national basis. The Monitoring and Advisory Committee acts as the 'standing orders committee' of the union. It's job is to oversee the work the elected officers, particularly the NSE. These 5 elected members are elected at AA to monitor the work of the NSE and analyse regular reports from them.

WORKING WITH ISSU DOCUMENTS

I view the ISSU Constitution as a important document in the structure of ISSU, it is the backbone of the decisions made, the representatives that it governs and the members that follow it. I believe that enforcing it is a very important role to ensure decisions is allowed and issued under the structure that holds our union together.

WHY ME?

As mentioned in my opening statement, I believe that I possess skills and qualities that would help me in this role, including knowledge of internal structure and understanding of documents that help govern the decisions made. My leading role in my Scout troop, organising elections, charing meeting and evaluating ideas for scout activities/events/meetings has provided me with the relevant experience for the MAC.

MANIFESTO

Jamie4MAC

Vote Jamie #1 at AA on 9th May!



Manifesto

I'm running for Monitoring and Advisory Committee to ensure that the structure and official documents are upheld. I will provide four points in my manifesto that I will reflect in my term as a member of the MAC. They form TRAP.

Transparency: Ensure that I act as a non-bias member to overlook the work of elected officers, not showing favourites and not showing influence. Transparency is important to establish that there are no exceptions made for anybody and to make sure that there is no outside influence from other policies.

Reliability: Ensure that I can be trusted in this position and that you can rely on me to complete the role I am running for. Reliability is important to establish that I commit to the role that I would have been selected to serve in.

Accountability: Ensure that all elected officers are held accountable to the constitution, but also to ensure that I take responsibility for my actions and promises I make. Accountability is important to establish that I am accountable for my actions in the role and that I keep my promises that I made during my campaign.

Persistence: Ensure that I will take on the role as a member of the MAC to the best of my ability for the entirety of my term. Persistence is important to establish that I will serve the role with all I have, and to put the most into my effort, there is not much room for mistakes when it comes to the MAC.

As a member of the MAC, I pledge to:

- Take amendments to the Constitution and other official documents and work to establish that they are represented and voted on in a fair and democratic manner.
- Make sure the work of the NSE, ROB and any elected positions abide by the official documents, including the new constitution that was passed at EA March 2021, of the union in their work as student representatives.

MONITORING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COISTE MONATÓIREACHTA AGUS COMHAIRLEACH

EVAN PEREIRA

Working Group Member

Nominated by Sustainability Working Group



ABOUT ME

I'm turning eighteen at the beginning of June and I'm a sixth year student at Athy College. I have conditional entry for a PLC course in Liberal Arts at Liberties College and I hope to study politics in university.

In regards to my experience, within the ISSU, I've served as a Regional Officer for Kildare/Wicklow after being co-opted to the position in May 2020 but unfortunately was defeated in a bid for re-election at that year's Regional Council. I've been a member of two working groups, the Sustainability Consultation Group (who I have been nominated by) and the Equality Team. I was involved in the organising of the recent National Sustainability event and the Leinster regional session.

My interest in politics came about in 2015 with Marriage Equality and the anti-Water Charges campaign and from there, I've been involved in activism on issues across the board. These campaigns include the campaign to ban conversion therapy, the campaign against the CETA trade deal, joining the picket alongside the Debenham's Workers who have been fighting for their agreed on redundancy, environment/Just Transition and a number of other issues.

Outside of politics, I'm interested in cycling, history, reading and nature.

WORKING WITH ISSU STRUCTURES

I'm running for Monitoring Committee because I believe that I have a good understanding of our internal structures, having been involved in a number of them.

To begin, the ISSU is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and we are registered with the Charities Register as a charity, meaning our activities must be in the remit of our charitable statement.

First off, we have our elected bodies, the Regional Officer Board (ROB), the National Student Executive (NSE) and the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC). The ROB is elected from the twenty two regions across the Republic, with their role being to represent students in the area on a local and national level, to organise Regional Council and they are the largest elected body in our Union. The NSE is the elected national officers of the Union, all with a specific remit who act as public representatives for the Union. The MAC is made up of five members who have experience in the Union, with their role being to monitor the activities of the ROB and the NSE, to provide constructive criticism/feedback and to hold those bodies to account.

All three of these bodies are elected directly by delegates from member schools using the PR-STV electoral system, with the ROB being elected at respective Regional Councils while the NSE and MAC are elected at the Annual Assembly, the Union's highest governing body.

In the background, there is the Board of Directors (who govern the legal aspect of the Union), the Secretariat (made up of the Managing Directors and staff) and the Senior Leadership Team (composed of the President, Deputy President, Honorary President and staff).

WORKING WITH ISSU DOCUMENTS

Our official documents; the Constitution, the Annual Assembly Procedure Document and the Directive Policy Book, all have one thing in common: they're voted on by our members.

Our Constitution, which was recently passed at the March 2021 Extraordinary Assembly, is the document that lays the foundations and the rules and procedures of the ISSU. The Constitution is where the different structures in the ISSU derive their basis and power, where everything from membership to elections are dealt with. This is the highest governing document of the Union.

The Annual Assembly Procedure Document, which was also adopted at the March 2021 Extraordinary Assembly, is the standing orders document for Annual/Extraordinary Assembly. The document lays out the rules and procedures for such assemblies, with the Chairperson(s) of the Assembly enforcing this document.

The Directive Policy Book is the collation of all the Directive Policy motions passed at Annual/Extraordinary Assembly, with motions being valid for three years from passage. Directive Policy motions cover officer remits (Welfare, Equality, Sustainability etc.), National Policy and Union Organisation.

It is the job of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee to ensure that these documents and policies are adhered to.

WHY ME?

I believe that my experience within and outside the ISSU, as well as my positive and hard work ethic make me a suitable candidate to monitor the work of the ISSU.

I'll start with my experience. Within the ISSU, I was co-opted into the position of Regional Officer for Kildare/Wicklow last May and served in the position until the beginning of 2021. During my time as a Regional Officer, I provided contributions to constitutional review, which gives me first hand experience with procedural and constitutional matters. I've also been a member of the Equality Team and the Regional Sustainability Consultation Working Group. Outside the ISSU, I've been involved in Kildare Comhairle na nÓg as a member for the Athy area and as Public Relations Officer. I've also been involved in a number of grassroots campaigns and I'm a member of People Before Profit. This has all given me experience with teamwork, organising and policy issues.

Regarding myself, I believe that I have a hard work ethic that would make me a good candidate for the MAC. I'm looking forward to getting to work, providing help wherever I can and ensuring that our Union is working to the best of its ability and that our officers are accountable to our members.

MANIFESTO

Vote #1 for Monitoring and Advisory Committee 2021/22

EVAN PEREIRA

"Ní neart go cur le chéile"



@evan4mac



/Evan4MAC



evan4mac@gmail.com

ABOUT ME / MY EXPERIENCE

My name is Evan Pereira and I'm running for a position on the MAC. I'm turning eighteen in June and I'm a sixth year student at Athy College. I hope to start a PLC course in September and from there, go on to university. My interest in politics spurred from the Marriage Equality referendum and the anti-Water Charges movement. Since then, I've been involved in activism both within and outside the ISSU.

Within the ISSU:

- Regional Officer for Kildare/Wicklow (May 2020 - Jan. 2021);
- Sustainability Consultation Working Group Member (Sep. 2020 - Apr. 2021);
- Equality Team Member (Oct. 2020 - Present);
- Involved in event organisation and constitutional review.

Outside the ISSU:

- Member and Public Relations Officer of Kildare Comhairle na nÓg (Nov. 2017 - Nov. 2019);
- Involved in grassroots campaigns on issues including LGBTQ+ rights, climate justice, workers' rights and student voice;
- Experience in campaign organising and policy formulation.

MY PRIORITIES

If I am elected to the MAC, I look forward to bringing my experience and hard work ethic to the table. My priorities are:

#1 - Transparency

If we want to see more grassroots involvement, then we need to be more open with our members. To do that, I want to:

- Publish monthly NSE officer reports and the semi-annual MAC report online;
- Use the ISSU platform to make members more aware of the MAC and its work;
- Make myself contactable to officers and members so that I can bring issues to the forefront.

#2 - Engagement

If elected to the MAC, I want to play an active role and be a team player. I plan to:

- Provide assistance to officers/Working Groups on projects wherever possible;
- Give feedback and constructive criticism on work carried out to improve where necessary;
- Assist in communication with member schools and recruitment of non-member schools.

#3 - Accountability

It is of the utmost importance that our elected officers and internal structures are held to account. On the MAC, I intend on:

- Making sure that elected officers are aware of internal rules/procedures and documents;
- Enforcing internal documents in an impartial and honest manner.

FORÓGRA

Vótáil #1 Don Coiste Monatóireachta agus Comhairleach 2021/22

EVAN PEREIRA

"Ní neart go cur le chéile"



@evan4mac



/Evan4MAC



evan4mac@gmail.com

MAR GHEALL ORM / MO PHRÍOMHFHOCAL

Evan Pereira is ainm dom agus táim ag rith le haghaidh post ar an CMC. Tá mé ocht mbliana déag d'aois i mí Meitheamh agus Dalta na hArdteiste mé i gColáiste Bhaile Átha Í. Tá súil agam cúrsa Iar-Ardteistiméireachta a thosú i mí Mheán Fómhair agus uaidh sin amach, dul ar aghaidh chuig ollscoil. Spreag mo spéis sa pholaitíocht ón reifreann ar Chomhionannas Pósta agus an ghluaiseacht in aghaidh Muirir Uisce. Ó shin i leith, bhí baint agam le gníomhachtú laistigh agus lasmuigh den ANDIÉ.

Laistigh den ANDIÉ:

- Oifigeach Réigiúnach do Chill Dara/Chill Mhantáin (Bealtaine 2020 - Eanáir 2021);
- Ball den Ghrúpa Oibre Comhairliúcháin Inbhuanaitheachta (Meán Fómhair 2020 - Aibreán 2021);
- Ball den Fhoireann Comhionannais (Deireadh Fómhair 2020 - I láthair);
- Páirteach in eagrú imeachtaí agus in athbhreithniú bunreachtúil.

Lasmuigh den ANDIÉ:

- Ball agus Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí de Chomhairle na nÓg Chill Dara (Samhain 2017 - Samhain 2019);
- Páirteach i bhfeachtais ar leithligh ar shaincheistanna lena n-áirítear cearta LADTA+, ceartas aeráide, cearta oibrithe agus guth mac léinn;
- Taithí ar eagrú feachtais agus ar cheapadh beartais.

MO PHRÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ

Má thoghtar mé ar an CMC, táim ag tnúth le mo thaithí oibre agus eitic a thabhairt chun tosaigh. Is iad mo thosaíochtaí:

1 - Trédhearcacht

Más mian linn níos mó rannpháirtíochta a fheiceáil ar an talamh, caithfidimid a bheith níos oscailte lenár mbaill. Chun é sin a dhéanamh, ba mhaith liom:

- Tuarascálacha oifigiúla míosúla FNML agus tuarascáil leathbhliantúil CMC a fhoilsiú ar líne;
- Úsáid an t-ardán chun baill a dhéanamh níos eolaí ar an CMC agus ar a chuid oibre;
- Téigh i dteagmháil le hoifigigh agus le baill ionas gur féidir liom saincheistanna a thabhairt chun tosaigh.

2 - Coinne

Má thoghtar mé don CMC, ba mhaith liom ról gníomhach a imirt agus a bheith i d'imreoir foirne. Tá sé ar intinn agam:

- Cúnamh a sholáthar d'oifigigh / Grúpaí Oibre ar thionscadail nuair is féidir;
- Aiseolas cuiditheach agus cáineadh a thabhairt ar obair a dhéantar le feabhsú más gá;
- Cuidiú le cumarsáid a dhéanamh le ball-scoileanna agus scoileanna nach baill iad a earcú.

3 - Cuntasacht

Tá sé thar a bheith tábhachtach go gcoinnítear ár n-oifigigh tofa agus ár struchtúir inmheánacha cuntasach. Tá rún agam ar an CMC:

- A chinntiú go bhfuil oifigigh tofa ar an eolas faoi rialacha / nósanna imeachta agus doiciméadacht inmheánach;
- Doiciméid inmheánacha a fhorfheidhmiú ar bhealach neamhchlaonta macánta.

SIN É!