

**VICE-PRESIDENT
EQUALITY &
CITIZENSHIP**

**#HereForYouDaly
CONGRESS'21**

U S I

Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

**LUKE
DALY**

FÁILTE: CONGRESS '21

A Chara,

My name is Luke, I am 24, a General Business graduate from what was ITB (Now TU Dublin - Blanchardstown) and I would describe myself as an activist, a feminist, and an intersectional community believer. I'm originally from County Limerick, via Blanchardstown, Dublin and I am hoping to gain your support in seeking to become the next USI Vice-President for Equality & Citizenship.

I am the current Deputy President for TU Dublin Students' Union. Included in my day-to-day role, is looking after issues around Academic Affairs, but also overseeing Welfare & Equality projects within TU Dublin Students' Union, before that I was the Welfare & Equality Officer before the TU Dublin merger in ITBSU.

I've been in the Student Movement since 2018 and have seen this movement grow, expand, and watch the victories we've collectively achieved. This year has been like no other, I see the resilience, the steely nerve, and the determination to not leave ANY student slip through the net. In 2021's Academic Year, we must heal, re-connect, re-align and come together again. I'm hoping to explain how exactly I plan to bring that support from the role throughout this manifesto.

We are stronger together, braver united & we stand, undivided.

Is Mise Le Meas agus Le Bród,



Luke
♡



Manifesto Guide

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What Voting #1 Luke Means

Why not Luke is the shorter question, there isn't an answer to that. I am passionate, experienced, and dedicated. For three years I have turned up every day, hour, minute, second for my students. USI will not be any different. I've built my campaign on the back of 3 pillars which you can read about more in the next pages.

- 1 Developing Platforms**
- 2 Reconnecting Our Network**
- 3 Bringing the Bite Back**

USI, their MO's, and their students are being presented a never-before-seen candidate, a new wave of activism is here, it's queer and it's not going anywhere. Experience matters, track records speak for themselves and the future looks bright. I am ready to make history as the first working-class openly queer man running for this position, but more importantly, I'm ready to bring the change needed to bring the big wins to our most vulnerable communities, I'm ready to bring a platform to those who don't have one, and I'm ready to bring the BITE back.

We have a dangerous wave of anti-autonomy University projects working their way to dismantle Students' Unions, we have a dangerous extremist gathering that rely on violence to spread hatred. I've dealt with these every single day for the past 3 years and I have beckoned them away from our campus. Let's do the exact same for our national movement.

A new wave of activism is coming and change is on the horizon, When you vote for me you vote for making history & more importantly change. My track record speaks volumes for itself, Lets bring that winning streak directly to our national movement, we need to heal from this year and begin to rejoice in all the victories we're about to achieve. And that's what you get when you vote me #1, GRMA





SOME OF MY EXPERIENCE

- **2 Term Deputy President (TU Dublin Students' Union) - Policy Officer**
 - **The remit includes Education Officer, Further remit of coordinating Welfare & Equality function with the officers across all of TU Dublin SU**
- **1 Term Welfare & Equality Officer (ITB Students' Union - Pre-Merger) - Policy Officer**
- **Successfully led the Blanchardstown Campus through Ireland's first Technological University Merger, from the Students' Union Perspective.**
- **Elected onto USI Campaigns Strategy Committee (2019-2020)**
- **Elected onto USI Governance Committee (2020-2021)**
- **Co-Founder of This Is Me - Transgender+ Healthcare Campaign**
- **President of Colours LGBTQI+ Society (2015-2018)**
- **7 Years on Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Committee (BC)**
- **Secured Gender Identity + Expression Policy & Gender Neutral Toilets**
- **Led ITBSU to an 87% in-favor mandate of Repealing The 8th (3rd Highest in Ireland!)**
- **Cleared -€28,000 of Deficit from ITBSU Account**
- **Has Presented Workshops at Pink Training (x3)**
- **Has Presented Workshops at Purple Training (x2)**
- **Member of CATU (Community Action Tenants Union)**
- **Has Brought/Helped Write some of the following Motions:**
 - **Supporting Trans Healthcare**
 - **Supporting LGBTQ+ Students in Brunei**
 - **De-Platforming & Rejecting Fascism**
 - **Support for Dying with Dignity**
 - **Accessibility of PrEP**
 - **SUSI Eligibility Review**
 - **SU Sustainability Review (Goodybags Motion)**
 - **USI Students' Union Casework Training Day**
 - **USI Campaigns Directory Booklet**
 - **Ask for Angela Implementation**
 - **Celebrating & Supporting Harm Reduction and Recovery**
 - **Regional Leadership & Personal Development Training**
 - **Monthly COVID-19 Forums, and so much more!**



The Three Pillars!

The campaign is structured on the basis that all elements of this manifesto will feed into one of the three pillars on uplifting, supporting, and centering this role. Every single piece of work done under the role of VP Equality & Citizenship will be based on these. This will ensure that the work I do under this role is student centric, activism led and caring for students and our officers. The three pillars are;

Developing Platforms

We will never elect the right person for any USI position unless we begin platforming our students and officers. Through developing platforms I want to bring the expertise into the room with us. As officers, we can lobby with anecdotes. We can tell stories on behalf of those students, but the power comes from these people being in the room. I want to actively use USI's platform, from social media to joint Oireachtas committee hearings, to national media outlets to promote the voices of students. To allow them to lead those conversations while USI facilitates, protects, and amplifies their voices louder than they can ever imagine.

Reconnecting Networks

We need to heal after COVID-19. The effects will last into next semester. We've lost some trajectory in this movement, and I will bring that back through ICE (Inspiring, Collaborating + Empowering) our students, our Unions and our Officers. Which means more events, more presence, more support.

Bringing the BITE Back

We will pursue local politicians. We will shut down cities across Ireland. Dublin. Cork. Belfast. Galway. Limerick. Waterford. Derry. and all of the rest. I want to see towns shut down. We need to disrupt the system. We will NOT accept ministers who dismiss students. We will EMPOWER our students to take a stand and most importantly we will EQUIP our officers to take STRONG. RADICAL. ACTION. TOGETHER.



You've heard the Who, When, and Why, now for the What and How! This is where we will explore the ideas of the manifesto. This will serve as a template work-plan. I want to demonstrate that I'm not putting these on as box-ticking, but giving you the HOW on this also.

COVID-19 & Recovery

- Factual partnership with the VP Welfare & Exec to pursue honest, truthful information on vaccination and supporting the rollout. Fighting back against lies and misinformation.***
- Highlighting inequalities, colonization, and working with ESU to highlight global medical apartheid against seizure of and slowing down of vaccination rollouts.***
- Nationally ran events (like the Welfare Sexual Health Bingo) to engage and provide a space for officers and students to decompress and de-stress.***
- Digitalization of campuses and blended learning working with the VP-AA, AHEAD & Disability Federation Ireland on working with the campuses on policy rollout on blended learning to ensure students are not disadvantaged by the rush to return.***
- Continue the support on the motion I brought about the COVID-19 members meeting to USI Congress 2020 as this will be needed to be backed strongly by the USI executive to act as a support, a helping hand, and an advisor, where we can use specialized sessions to offer workshops for officers on financial/commercial recovery, etc using the 2008 Recession & Crash recovery plan as a template for Unions to recover fully.***



Equality

Manifesto

Disability

- *As VP Equality & Citizenship I will ensure that the Power of Disability forum is continued, with a blended approach of both having access on and offline for the event for users to engage with, including ISL interpreters for sessions as well as closed captioning services available working with DFA & AHEAD.*
- *I will assess the demand and feasibility of offering publications under USI in Braille format for the 16% of the registered blind population in Ireland who use this.*
- *Working with the President (HEA) and MO's (Academic Council) to ensure that Universal Design Language (UDL) is a standing item on agendas for continuous improvement and development in best practice learning.*
- *Working with MOs locally to produce information to hand out to freshers and use as re-fresh materials to offer students a 'My Rights' introductory information to colleges such as including 'DAWN'/Reasonable Accommodations and lobbying to fill the gaps.*
- *Accessibility audits for all events with plain text versions offered.*
- *Language sensitivity training for officers.*
- *Creating cross-campus community networks. (Social Media Sites)*
- *Marking national days.*
- *VP EQ+C to produce reports on issues presented at the advisory working groups to develop policy on a national level.*
- *Singular disclosure policy for officers on disclosing any accessibility requirements for events and working with the President to review internal USI policies.*

Ethnic Minorities

- *Continue working with the Irish Traveller Movement on developing a third level framework for awarding the yellow flag to third-level institutes.*
- *Using departmental reports published to lobby for extensive funding for the Traveller & Roma communities through funding, scholarships etc. with a particular aim at Traveller & Roma Women and to celebrate and recognize national Traveller & Roma days.*



Manifesto

Equality

- **Collaboration Networks through Social Media Platforms.**
- **Collaborations with Black & Irish**
- **Working with MO's and VP Academic Affairs and the Department to introduce 'BAME Studies' programs and courses.**
- **Lobbying for birthright correction of citizenship for anyone in third level who has not claimed. (Students Impacted by SUSI)**
- **Supporting black excellence through Black History Month.**
- **Actively participate in Black Lives Matter movements, platforming BIPOC/BAME voices through the national platform.**
- **Offering SU's attendance matrix suggestions for diversity in attendance of USI events.**
- **Pursue national policy on decolonization of the curricula north and south of the border and supporting work done by MO's to enshrine this.**
- **Lobbying the Garda Ombudsman, Department of Justice & Garda Commissioner to enact immediate reviews of internal reporting and facilitating active sanctions against G-SOC reports finding racism, profiling, or any targeted harassment.**
- **Having the Student Advisory Group lead the EMPower Festival as well as transform it into activism-led festival-style learning where groups can sign up to immediate groups to capture activism in local communities (ie; CATU) as well as developing it to the same size as Pink Training.**
- **Develop ToR for the advisory groups and enshrine them in USI's constitution to the same level as the Governance / Campaigns committee.**
- **Review internal policies within USI & hiring practices.**
- **Unconscious & Affinity bias training to officers at training.**
- **Anti-Racism & Bystander intervention training for officers.**
- **Putting pressure on ESU to pursue international issues such as ending SARS, medical apartheid, Palestinian liberation etc.**

LGBTQI+ : Gender & Sexuality

- **Committing to a complete re-design of Pink Training to capture activism in local communities (ie; Sign-Ups via CATU etc). Earlier access to Pink Training information. Focus on queer history, where next, collaboration spaces, BTQI++ identities being the focus + so much more!**
- **Lobbying for complete abolition of the MSM bloodban whilst working with the VP Welfare to lobby for unhindered widely accessible (and free) PrEP access along with a reformed Sexual Health Education call.**
- **Working with MO's locally to roll-out and introduce Gender Identity/Expression policies along with Gender Neutral Toilets.**



ATER, SNACKS, FRUIT, REFRESH
EMS AND SO MUCH MORE!



SO THIS IS WHAT
YOU'RE DOING NOW???



Manifesto

Equality

- **Working with TENI (Transgender Equality Network Ireland) and Intersex Ireland on the abolition of intersex forced-surgery.**
- **Lobbying department of health for implementation of better training on GP and Surgical optics for Trans, Non-Binary & Intersex people.**
- **Lobbying the department of health into reforming and making the Treatment Abroad & Cross-Border Treatment schemes to be more accessible to trans, non-binary and intersex folks around the country as well as highlighting their availability and difficulties accessing it.**
- **Education for officers on the problems with trans healthcare in the country availing of resources north and south of the border to highlight the disparity on both sides and inequalities.**
- **Lobbying for specialized queer health services outside of Dublin and more ruralized development of these services.**
- **Helping MO's locally lobby for the implementation of T-Funds locally while working with the local MO's to lobby the local authorities (ie; City/County Councils) for localized implementations of T-Funds.**
- **Helping MOs lobby locally for Gender Neutral Builds in Toilets and Changing Rooms.**
- **Allyship training and collaborative networks for LGBTQ+ students and societies.**
- **Working with the LGBTQI+ strategy group on implementing legal recognition for a third gender (like Germany, acknowledging Non-Binary using an X-Marker on official government documentation)**
- **Lobbying ESU (European Students' Union) to put pressure on international anti-LGBTQI+ policies and the abolition of them. Such as the Anti-LGBTQI+ zones in Poland. These cannot be allowed to enter Europe.**
- **Lobbying against corporate greed interfering Pride festivals.**
- **Working with pride-organizers in offering alcohol alternative events.**
- **Giving notice for delegations to march with USI Pride Events around the country.**
- **Platforming and promoting 'Alternative Pride'**
- **Reviewing internal policies within USI with the President and General Manager and pass recommendations to USI Governance Committee.**
- **Offer unconscious and affinity bias training, along with allyship and bystander intervention training to officers.**



ATER, SNACKS, FRUIT, REFRESH
EMS AND SO MUCH MORE!



SO THIS IS WHAT
E'RE DOING NOW???



Equality

Manifesto

Empowering Womxn

- **Continue 'Women In Lead' and adapt it into festival-style learning and sharing environment with again, focus on capturing activism, led by the President of USI.**
- **Tapping into our MO's for workshops, speakers, etc., and empowering storytelling.**
- **An intersectional feminist approach to the work done in the event.**
- **Lobbying to include sexism, misogyny & gender-based violence within hate-crime legislation.**
- **Lobbying the department to enshrine parental leave, glass-ceiling breaking, and intersectional maternal rights to parents within the legislation. (IE; TD's don't have maternity leave)**
- **Lobbying for increased investment into STEM (working with ISSU & VP AA)**
- **Lobbying for the review of the STEM Education Review Group 2016's report on the introduction of STEM and promotion.**
- **Working with MO's locally on accrediting feminism and offering feminism studies.**
- **Implementing gender quota procedures for USI groups**
- **Helping MO's review and introduce gender quota policies locally.**
- **Working with ESU on putting pressure on the EU to platform against international issues; FGM, Child Marriage, Slavery, Trafficking.**
- **Working with SWAI & Department to lobby for the end of human trafficking and implementation of safe-out procedures.**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- **GNIB + VISA lobby reform with a focus on Cost-Effectiveness, Quicker Processing & fewer Restrictions to access, with focus on renewal process being accessible and moved online for around the country.**
- **Lobbying for caps on international fees using ICOS' reports to find the fairest solution to work towards the non-distinguishable difference between international and domestic students through development of reports on disparity among Int. Students.**



Manifesto

Equality

- **Lobbying for an additional seat(s) on ICOS board, so that student voices can be directly platformed to a national level as well as officers directly.**
- **Reporting from Student Advisory Working group to develop national policy on helping USI represent better.**
- **Working with MO's to develop a 'Belonging' campaign using the ICOS' reports and findings to address issues highlighted by Int. Students.**

Mature & Part-Time Students & Apprentices

- **Continuing the mature student seminar and using the template 'activism' piece as with previous events mentioned.**
- **Work with MO's on introducing introductory packs for Mature Students.**
- **Enhancing Advisory Groups using these groups to directly impact national policy based on issues presented at the advisory groups.**
- **Develop apprentice specific groups and helping MO's collate data to ensure that their issues are founded, reported on and addressed.**
- **Lobbying for funding mechanisms for Students' Unions on FTE students and quality of funding & representation.**

Direct Provision

- **Campaigning against 'Integration Centers'**
- **Working with MASI on properly ending DP**
- **Campaigning against CETA & safeguarding against it.**
- **Lobbying for implementation of Catherine Day recommendations.**
- **Lobbying for immediate 'Right to Work'**
- **Working against 'Vulnerability Assessments'**
- **Advisory group with specific ministerial focus on reporting.**

Places of Sanctuary

- **Lobbying against student deportation orders**
- **Working with MO's to introduce this under Part-Time courses**
- **Working with MO's to set out application process on Sanctuary places**
- **Supporting Migrant Minds campaigns & platforming their work**



ATER, SNACKS, FRUIT, REFRESH
EMS AND SO MUCH MORE!



SO THIS IS WHAT
WE'RE DOING NOW???



Abortion Access & Reproductive Rights

- Working with the HSE & NHS in accordance with local MO's to ensure access is unhindered
- Working on the lobbying of the review of Abortion Access in Ireland with the department that ensures recommendations are not regressive, are trans+ inclusive, and protected.
- Working with the VP Welfare on Sexual Health Education reform and removing 'Conscious Objection' from the review ensuring it's accessible, sex-positive, and consent-led.

Sex Work

- Working with SWAI on submissions made in 2020 to lobby for changes needed to protect Sex Workers along with lobbying for their protection and support for them.
- Lobbying to ensure that Anti-IBSA is continued as a support campaign and review of legislation allows for submissions from students.
- Lobbying for the recognition of sex work as work with the included protection of workers.

The North is Now

- Abortion access (see above) & All-Ireland Island approach to the work done by USI VP EQ+C
- Anti-Sectarian campaigns. Community-driven and supporting the work of MO's in combatting this, with platforming MLAs who have backed mitigating this and working with NUS-USI and their MO's on beginning community-led conversations, incorporating care campaigns using international data on mitigating sectarianism.
- Running data-polls on SU's having mandates on supporting a United Ireland referenda.
- Collaborating with NUS-USI MO's on submitting a motion to National Council/Congress ^
- Working with NUS-USI election Mandates to ensure officers are aware of 'Northern Issues' across the island of Ireland.
- Collaborative teaching/learning & sharing spaces for officers to share information on this.



Manifesto

Citizenship

Voter Reform

- **In January 2021, the Government announced that they will be reforming our electoral system and voter system, in this what I would like to do is have USI act as a watch-dog on issues pertaining to:**

- Lowering the Voting Age (17) / Register of Electors Reform
- Moving Voter Registration Online / National ID card
- Removing "exclusive" voting from Seanad Elections
- Work to be done North & South of the Border for Proxy & Postal Voting Systems (Yet also applying to international students, Erasmus Program or Exchange Students)

• Lobby Training 101

- **I want to offer Lobby Training 101 to all officers so that they'll be able to :**
 - Distinguish the different roles of Councillor, Senator, Minister & Elected TD (And similar for the North ie; MLAs)
 - Be able to lobby + fill out lobby returns efficiently and effectively.
 - Be able to know the capacity of what the person they are lobbying can / can't ask for and being able to hold that negotiation and lobbying effectively.
 - Introduce a "Lobby Training Day" with politicians and representatives that will allow for the training of officers in engaging with people from "within" the system.

PFG + Mandate Booklet

- **Explore the possibility of studying the Program for Government (PFG) and isolating student-centric issues into a digital booklet for Officers to be able to build their knowledge of governmental commitments so that our lobbying efforts may act much more efficiently (including the Election Mandates of MLPs in the North)**

Referenda

- **Exploring Referenda Opinions on a single island structure, but also explore the conversation with having a more structured Educational System and work with the VP AA & ISSU on tackling these issues as well as increasing our cohesion with NUS-USI & NUS-UK. Supporting the #BornHereBelongHere referenda also!**



Manifesto

Sustainability

SDG - SAAI - SU Challenge

- *I would like to move away from the word "Sustainability" when talking about sustainability and move towards educating and sharing information on the SDGs. One of the ways we can do this and also promote healthy competition is through the SDGs challenge, where we'd have a weekly challenge set for Students' Unions.*
- *Each week would focus on one of the SDGs from the start of the term until the end of term and repeat, with an action point (with the freedom to explore further actions),*
- *At the end of the year, at the SAAIs, USI would announce the SDG champions awards under Gold, Silver & Bronze. This helps promote friendly competition among MOs, help share knowledge on the SDGs, moving away from the idea of "monetized sustainability" and ultimately do some good in the world with regards to making the world and our communities a genuinely more "sustainable" place for our students.*

Saves3 & ANTI-CETA

- *Supporting SAVES3 implementation into USI as a full-time Sustainability Officer*
- *Creating a new USI Officer Role for Sustainable Development.*
- *Campaigning against CETA implementation and integrating a safeguard against the likes of this.*

Climate Action Strike Support

- *I would like to support ISSU on School Strike Fridays and continue that into third level education where we link in with MO's different sustainable and green/environmental societies along with Green Campus groups to tie in what we can do to ensure our Government acts on their declaration of a Climate Emergency.*
- *Actively engage with electoral protocol to hold governmental departments to account on sustainability promises and lobby for more work to be done on the goals set out to achieve in the 2030 and 2050 benchmarks. Using COP-21's agreement as the foundation to drive these.*



Other Areas

Manifesto

- **Technological Universities**
 - **With being involved in the first TU in Ireland and having gone through the process, I want to be there to fully support and help SU's merge successfully and explore different processes in their merger.**
- **Working with VP Welfare on ending Period Products Extortion**
- **Glass Ceiling-Shattering Modules (Intersectional)**
 - **I'm a big believer in, if you can dream it, you can do it. We need to focus on intersectional glass ceiling shattering and subverting expectations. This can be done through workshops on how to break barriers to societal expectations.**
- **Desensitization & Ending IBSA**
 - **I want to work with the Department of Justice and also lobby the government in conjunction with the VP Welfare to ensure that the legislation around IBSA can be effectively reviewed.**
 - **I want to work with the VP of Welfare to ensure that a campaign on desensitization is launched.**
- **Working with VP Campaigns to organize Non-Violent Direct Action Training with USI Officers including legalities of protests and process.**
- **Exploring Decriminalisation of Drugs with VP Welfare.**
- **More presence on campuses from VP Equality & Citizenship**
- **Check-in calls every month with nominated SU officer from each Member Organisation (MO)**
- **Working with NUS-USI & NUS-USI MO's to combat sectarianism**
- **Avtivism Advent Calendar**
 - **2 Week Lead In Time for USI through Student Advisory Groups to share the USI platform with different grassroots groups to ensure they are able to get national exposure where they may not have gotten that before.**
- **Rural Student Integration into Third Level Institutes**



A Final Word....

A Chara,

I have mapped out our journey for the next year together as USI Vice-President for Equality & Citizenship. We will platform those who have been without a voice, we will heal from the time of COVID-19, and we will bring the powers that be to their knees and make them listen to the demands of our students. We are a movement, and a movement has never been silent.

As your next Vice-President for Equality & Citizenship, I will bring a new wave of activism that this national movement has never seen. I will celebrate your wins. Console you in your losses. Platform you, your students, and your team along the journey, and together we will forge a path that will allow students to lead this movement.

We are about to make history by electing me into this position, but more importantly, we are about to create change and bring the bite back into this movement. It will be student-centric, officer focused and change-driven.

Every moment of my journey throughout this movement has led to this movement. Will you join me on riding this new wave of activism and beckon in the new era of change to emerge from this year like a phoenix out of the ashes? We will do this together, and we will win this together. There is power in numbers, and we will hear the voices of 374,000+ of us across this island.

Is Mise Le Meas agus Le Bród,

Luke 

GET IN TOUCH!

PRIMA!



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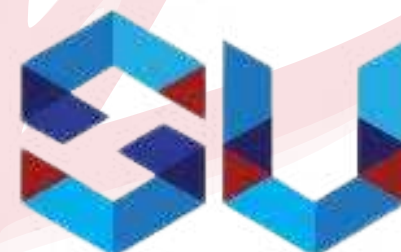
Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn



Students' Union
university college cork



MTU



DKIT



Queen's
Students'
Union



GALWAY-MAYO
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



IT SLIGO STUDENTS' UNION



Maynooth Students' Union
Aontas na Mac Léinn Máh Nuad



ULSTER UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' UNION



NUI Galway
Students' Union
*Comhaltas na Mac Léinn
OÉ Gaillimh*