

The National Union of Students was formed in February 1922 and its first National President was elected. I'm proud to be here 100 years on to mark our centenary with you.

Founded in the shadows of the first World War, the early student officers saw the importance of students coming together at national and international levels to work for a better tomorrow.

*"If students are co-operating today surely there is hope for tomorrow."*  
- Ivision S. Macadam, NUS Founding President 1922.

What we have built today is an organisation with students at its heart.

We've fought to make the world, education, and society a better place for 100 years. We've always been ahead of the curve when it comes to our liberation, and our vision for the future - where we lead, society catches up. And we have to keep pushing at that.

We're proudly radical, and we have been since 1922.

In solidarity,

*Larissa*

Larissa Kennedy  
NUS President 2020 - 2022



## 1. Leading the way

We are a winning movement! As part of the student movement today we come in a long line of people who've stood up for their values and made change. Because solidarity, cooperation and daring to think radically have always been at the heart of the student movement.

Free healthcare on campus was something that we were talking about in 1937, over a full decade before the NHS was founded and the concept of universal healthcare became common sense – but something that is still considered dangerously radical elsewhere!

And we've never let solidarity stop at our borders.

In 1970, when South African people were governed under apartheid, students were at the forefront of resistance. The then NUS President travelled to South Africa to meet the South African Student Organisation's President Steve Biko, and NUS organised a student boycott of Barclay's bank until it cut its ties with the regime – an economic boycott which is widely credited with being hugely influential in the end of apartheid.

Paving the way to make the UK and world fairer and better.

We went against the current of public opinion to become the first ever organisation in the UK to pass policy in favour of gay rights – a couple of years before even the events of the film *Pride!* We don't leave anyone behind: we took the government to court to prove that they had wrongfully deported 48,000 international students – and won.

We've changed the face of politics where ever we go – but in particular, through the founding of NUS-USI. NUS-USI was established in 1972 under a unique arrangement where both the British and Irish national student unions jointly organised in Northern Ireland to promote student unity across the sectarian divide. An idea which seemed radical at the time, a full 26 years before the Good Friday Agreement, was again propagated in the student movement.

As a movement, our wins have been huge and wide-ranging over the past 100 years.

Right up to this year, we haven't let anything slow us down. From mass rent strikes, to millions of students petitioning for academic justice in the pandemic, to students taking to the streets and tearing down the fences that their uni threw up around student halls: we're here, we're louder than ever, and we're ready for the next one hundred years."

## 2. How to get involved

### Campaign with us

We win big when we show our power as a movement.

On March 2, 2022 we are calling on all students to walk out on strike and join us in London.



**Right now, the market in education is limiting us: we are told to go in and we'll get on the conveyor belt for better jobs when we get out. But that's a lie: as a generation, we're much worse off than our parents ever were.**

And education can be more than this.

What if we built it together instead of buying it? What if knowledge was shared rather than sold?

And so we're asking everyone to step out of this education for one day and come together in community. The student strike is a protest; it's a party. We've been failed by governments: it's time for us to come together and re-make education ourselves.

We are building a movement to transform education.

### Calls to Action:

- Join the strike - [nus.org.uk](https://nus.org.uk)
- Book a bus for your students to come down: [toolkit](#)
- Join one of the working groups: [sign up form](#)

### Got any questions?

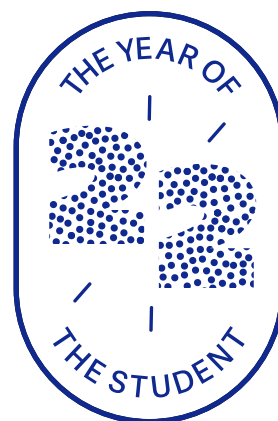
Staff, chat to [Hannah.Sketchley@nus.org.uk](mailto:Hannah.Sketchley@nus.org.uk)

Officers, chat to: [Larissa.Kennedy@nus.org.uk](mailto:Larissa.Kennedy@nus.org.uk)

### **3. Year of the Student**

We want to make 2022 a year to celebrate not just past achievements but students right now. Who they are, what they are doing and what they want to see in the future.

This can be through campaigning with us on big issues like creating a new vision for education or how we decolonise the system; from sharing their stories and experiences to showcasing their talents.



#### **Student Showcase**

Celebrating 100 years of NUS and the student movement. Proudly radical since 1922. We want to share your stories and showcase your work.

Themes can include: 100 years of the student movement, Proudly radical since 1922, 2022 Year of the Student and staying radical for the next 100 years.

Art, film, photo, digital, poem, story, illustration, fashion, pottery, music...

We will display your work online, share and promote through our social channels, activities and events.

#### **Student Stories**

Students are the heart of our movement and making change for a better world. We want to share the inspiring stories of students and student groups who are leading the change, supporting others or making your student union, university or college a better place.

[nus100.nus.org.uk](http://nus100.nus.org.uk)

#### **4. SU Memories**

We have uncovered all sorts of interesting stories throughout our history, we love to read them and are excited to use this year to share them too.

We want to hear about your great stories so we can collect them together to share on our centenary hub which will live as a point of information long after our celebrations end.

Name:

Uni or College:

Story or quote: (500 words or less)

Attachments: photos, files etc.

Email:

Postcode:

Email: [centenary@nus.org.uk](mailto:centenary@nus.org.uk)

If you are having a clear out and come across any items from NUS campaigns or your own student union activities from years gone by let us know. NUS have a collection at the Modern Records Centre in Warwick which we are keen to add to. Email us at [centenary@nus.org.uk](mailto:centenary@nus.org.uk)

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