

## **Liberation-Campaign Officer Manifestos**

**RON** will be a candidate for all positions. Re Open Nominations – allows voters state they do not feel any of the current candidates standing are suitable for the role and would like to re-open nominations.

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### **Racial & Ethnic Minority Students' Officer**

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#### **Aminah Mann Manifesto**

Hello, Hello! I am Aminah, a second-year Economics student and I would be honoured to be your next Race and Ethnic minority officer. I have been a proud member of this University's Feminist society since I was a first-year, and have been elected Treasurer of the society from

the beginning of this academic year.

My main goal would be to strengthen the race and ethnic minority forum by re-establishing the exec community and actively engaging with students through social media and in-person events so that everybody can feel supported, heard and valued.

Being part of the Feminist society for the past two years enabled me to attend weekly meetings to hear different viewpoints and perspectives from people with differing backgrounds and beliefs.

I have been humbled and moved by hearing from women across different race and ethnic minority backgrounds. Some have had similar experiences to me, being a second-generation British-born citizen and some are either international students or first-generation in this country.

Every person whom I've spoken to has a unique and compelling account, from which everyone in society can learn. This has spurred my motivation to rebuild the forum, so that change can be enacted and nurturing a safe space for people can be achieved.

Another goal would be to reach out to the different cultural, religious and ethnic societies at the university. Creating a forum to work together and celebrate individual practices.

My personal experience is one of being of mixed-race descent with a dominantly Indian-Pakistani heritage. Growing up, I was exposed to both cultures, which has been an incredible experience enabling me to additionally explore other cultures and differing practices.

Reaching out to other societies to collaborate with them would present a fantastic opportunity for personal growth for all willing to learn.

As part of my campaign, I would also like to express how important it is to me that people feel heard and respected, not just within the forum but also in your respective societies and in lectures.

Growing up in England as a woman of mixed-race heritage has been an interesting experience, with its challenges, which have, at times left me feeling powerless and isolated, I'm sure many people can relate to this.

However, this is not a feeling that I would wish for any students across this campus. To prevent this or help to resolve this, I would work closely with the Students Union to ensure that everybody feels safe, respected and heard in every aspect of university life.

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## Students' With Disabilities Officer

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**Luke Halpin and Rowan Birch**

### **Manifesto**

Hello! We are Luke (he/him) and Rowan (they/them) and we are co-running to be your Students with Disabilities Officers for 2023/24!

I'm Luke, a first year computer science PhD student researching digital accessibility in education, though I have been studying at Lancaster since 2019. I have been involved with forums, student groups, and university initiatives around inclusion since 2020, and continue to be actively involved in my department's EDI committee and a national body's committee for neurodiverse representation in IT.

I'm Rowan, a second year history student, most interested in the history of marginalised group's experiences around healthcare and sexuality. Since the first opportunity, I have been a member of the SWD exec, supporting the provision of regular and varied events for the forum, and helping to run campaigns including the importance of subtitles and proper installation of emergency cords in accessible bathrooms.

### **We want to be your LCO because:**

- Our extensive skills and experience enable us to enact **meaningful change** for disabled people.
- We are passionate about supporting and advocating for people with disabilities and accessibility needs, regardless of diagnosis status.
- We understand what change is needed, and how it can be implemented.
- We know the importance of SWD as a source of support and community, and want this to continue for future years.

### **If elected, we will focus on:**

- Improving the accessibility of university life.
- Advocating for disabled students in education, including **maintaining accessibility measures** introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Supporting and amplifying** disabled students' views, experiences and insights.
- Continuing to work with the Forum to **cultivate a supportive community** of disabled students at Lancaster.

We have endeavoured to set realistic goals which will **improve** the experience of disabled students at Lancaster. Our manifesto is a **plan of action**, highlighting the issues which need to be addressed and how we will work to enact **meaningful change**.

### **Improving Life at Lancaster for Disabled Students**

Failure to consult disabled students about their experiences makes university life unnecessarily inaccessible.

#### *We will:*

- Make university services aware of current shortcomings using feedback from students.
- Update and formalise existing guidelines on **accessibility of societies and events**.

- Advocate for disabled students in discussions about the **cost of living crisis** , which disproportionately affects disabled people.

### Forum and Community

The Forum is an important hub for disabled students, particularly those for whom other societies may be inaccessible.

*We will:*

- Maintain weekly safe space events.
- Use advertising and outreach events to promote the Forum.
- Support, lead and empower the Forum executive in running new and existing campaigns and events relevant to disabled students.

### Academic Needs and Accessibility

Lancaster University has a responsibility to make educational resources accessible to all students. Disabled students deserve equal access to the education they are paying for. Independent Learning Support Plans (ILSPs) are the university's main method of supporting disabled students, but information on them is often unclear.

*We will:*

- Hold the university to account in its legal and ethical responsibilities to disabled students.
- Campaign for all essential university resources to be fully accessible, eg. available in an online, screen-reader friendly format.
- Empower students with the knowledge needed to self-advocate, by raising awareness of ILSPs, extenuating circumstances and extensions.

The university's response to the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that **making education accessible to disabled students benefits everyone** .

- Many of the changes implemented would have benefitted disabled students regardless of the public health situation.
- The maintenance of online lectures, with **accurate captions** , and online exams, are vital to making university education accessible to **ALL students**.

*We will:*

- Highlight to the university how important it is that they maintain these measures.

### Support and Amplify Disabled Voices

Disabled students should be centred in conversations throughout the university, and as LCOs, *we will:*

- Run regular support drop-in sessions both in person and online to **support** and **signpost** students who may struggle to reach out otherwise.
- Through these sessions and continuous contact with Forum members, we can inform the university and the SU on how they can better support students.
- Amplify the views, experiences and insights of disabled people in the Union Assembly, and on a university-wide scale.

Thank you for reading! If you like what you've seen so far, please **vote for Luke and Rowan** as your first preference for SWD LCO. To keep up with our campaign or to ask questions, follow our Instagram **@luke\_and\_rowan\_for\_sw\_d** .

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**Iraadat Khan****Manifesto**

Who am I??

Hey, I am Iraadat!!

I am a second-year business management student, I am running for the position of student with disabilities officer(LCO). During my early academic career, I was diagnosed with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD. I was born in India and spent more than 16 years there. There was a lack of awareness of the disabilities that students might have, which led to my parents having a hard time explaining what it was to the school and making it possible for me to study there. Despite the fact that my family had moved from India to the UK and I had joined the university, I did feel quite like an international student going to a new place, interacting with new people and discussing my disabilities with them.

It has been a tough journey for me to get here at Lancaster University. It made me feel quite insecure to talk about my disabilities when I came to Lancaster University. I was afraid of asking for the support I needed, but I didn't know how to meet the department for my courses, and I didn't know where to ask for the necessary adjustments and what my peers would think. Despite that, Lancaster University has made me feel more confident about myself. It has given me the confidence that I can achieve all my goals. My professors, the learning department, and most importantly the amazing student union, and my friends here at Lancaster are all factors that helped me to be more confident in my abilities to run for elections here, and I am very thankful for them. Having been provided with such a fantastic learning environment, I am filled with a sense of responsibility towards my fellow students who are in my shoes right now. They are struggling due to their disabilities. I want to help you all as efficiently as I can. It is my responsibility to help them reach their full potential and to assist them in that process. This would be such a wonderful opportunity to connect with students with any kind of disability through the forum. We can meet in person and have a discussion about how I can make you all feel as comfortable as possible here at the university. Here are the things I plan on doing in the future

- I would continue to lead the campaign for improved academic access for students with disabilities and long-term health conditions that was begun previously by previous officers.
- I would like to help you to gain a better understanding of the process of obtaining support on campus and to make your learning experience as enjoyable as possible.
- In order to help the SU improve their services for students suffering from disabilities, I will be cooperating with the SU executives. I will assist them in improving their services for all disabled students
- By launching campaigns targeting national disabilities, I hope to raise student awareness about these issues.
- It is my goal to represent all students with disabilities at Lancaster University. I will work with their representatives to ensure that any changes that they need to feel comfortable and equal at Lancaster University are implemented.
- I will be available to assist any students who need it and to help them work out solutions if they have any difficulties with their university studies
- I aim to be working closely with the academic representatives to ensure that departments are actively monitoring and challenging the attainment gap and putting into place the necessary adjustments to address it.
- In cooperation with the University, send out a guide about how to apply for DSA once you have accepted a course offer and organize an info session at the beginning of the semester.

Since I am a disabled student, I feel this is an excellent opportunity for me. I have been in a position where students with disabilities are present, and I would like to assist them in any way I can, since I share a common bond with them that ties us together as a unified group.

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## **Arwen Smith & Charley Zollinger**

### **Manifesto**

Hi! We're Arwen (She/They) and Charley (They/Them), and we'd love to be elected as your next Students With Disabilities (SwD) Officers.

We're providing a short, one-sentence version of our manifesto along with the regular version to allow students that don't have the capacity to read a full manifesto the chance to learn about what we want to accomplish without having to read everything.

### **Short Version**

We want to further develop the forum to continue to provide safe spaces for disabled students, to help to direct those students to resources they might need and work towards making campus and the uni more accessible.

### **Full Manifesto**

Arwen (She/They): I'm a second-year Computer Science student in County College. I'm currently the Intersectionality Officer for SwD. My other experience includes my time on the LGBTQ+ Forum Exec, and my role as the Card and Board Game Society president.

Charley (They/Them): I'm a first-year Linguistics mature student in Bowland College. I'm currently the Publicity and Communications Officer for SwD. I was also on the LGBTQ+ Forum Exec for the first half of this year, and I ran my own business full-time for five years before coming to uni.

Chances are, if you're a current member of the SwD forum, you'll have interacted with at least one of us - we're both active members of the forum and the Exec, and we regularly attend the forum events, such as the social events on Friday evenings.

We've decided to co-run for this role as we know how demanding the role can be, and as disabled students ourselves, co-running will allow us to share the responsibilities without burning out. We also each bring our own unique experiences and backgrounds to the role.

We both have experience with the forums and with LUSU, and as disabled students, we also know a lot about the processes that go on behind the scenes, and the various avenues of help available to disabled students (as well as what needs to be improved with them!).

Our experiences also mean we are both well equipped to communicate with a variety of people, keep on top of a wide range of tasks, and handle all the day-to-day admin this type of role requires.

If elected as your LCOs, we will work hard to continue to provide a weekly safe space event for disabled students, providing engaging activities as well as drinks and snacks. We want to create the most welcoming environment for students as possible and plan on doing this by encouraging the use of name and pronoun stickers/badges, easy access to fidget and stim toys, and by making our events as accessible to as many students as possible.

We also want to work towards making everyday life at uni more accessible, including:

- working to improve lecture recordings and captioning by working with the elected VP of Education and lobbying departments to adhere to a set of guidelines

- working with departments to make it easier for students to access support, such as streamlining the extension request process or, where this isn't possible, requesting clearer guidelines for students with and without an ILSP

We've both found a home in this forum, and it means the world to us. So we want to give back in the best way we can. Help us do that by voting us to be your next SwD LCOs!

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## **Women+ Officer**

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**Hana Dodsworth**

### **Manifesto**

Being the Women+ Officer this year has taught me many things. I've learnt the importance of time management and especially compromise. In the role I've had my highs and lows but I feel I have finally figured out the correct formula for the running of the forum. In summary, if you re-elect me I aim to create a diversity pledge for the sugarhouse aswell as create meaningful campaigns within the forum that enact real change, rather than just 'awareness' campaigns.

For Womens History month, there is no budget for sugar, I then found that they only have 1 resident female DJ. After delving deeper into this I have found that this academic year over 80% of featured DJ's are White Males, the only exceptions to this tend to be when there is a specific history month e.g. black history month, LGBTQ+ history month and Womens History month. We should not only have 3 occasions a year where diversity is encouraged and is seen to be a big deal to have someone other than a white male.

Some of the featured DJs' this year include;  
LF systems (multiple times)  
D.O.D  
Bastille  
Ben Hemsley

The pattern is clear, there is no diversity across the people playing sugar, and why? Because they take a slight bit more effort to find? Because they might need extra accommodations in order to play? We need to start giving the minority a platform to become the majority!

In Relation to campaigns, I feel that this year the forum hasn't managed to create meaningful, impactful campaigns. My Aim from now on is to try and create campaigns that enact change and allow for the lobbying of the university for standards which are unacceptable. My most recent campaign I am starting is surrounding period poverty, trying to get the implementation of Free sanitary products across the whole of campus. However, this is just the beginning, there are so many more issues tackling the women+ community that just aren't vocalised as often!

I aim to be an officer of the people and to create meaningful connections with other students in order to enhance my capability running in this role, feedback and criticism is very important I have found for my role and I hope you continue to hold me accountable for any wrongdoings I am involved in. Thank you for considering me.