Campaigns and Engagement Officer Report

In July, I attended Lead and Change, the NUS training with sessions largely focused at second years, allowing space to reflect and discuss on our times as first year officers. There were also sessions on campaigning as a Students' Union, addressing each of the strategies and tactics as well as how to incorporate different strategies at key points in time. This was followed up by SUT+ which was held here, where we entered a simulation of working in a Student Union. Both of these were good chances to network with people from across Ireland, Scotland and a lot of England and discuss potential projects to work on collectively.

Following on from the Manifesto pledge to promise Consent Training to CLubs and Societies, I have been meeting with Nexus NI and other groups to discuss how best to implement this. Nexus NI have said that they can deliver Bystander Training for free up until March with limited numbers. A potential option is to have this training be rolling over the academic year with a lobbying team focused on trying to lobby each Society to sign their members up with this training.

I have met with LORAG and other invested Community Groups based around the Holylands. We discussed: the relationship between students, landlords, residents and the university and I attempted to restructure the narrative away from an antagonistic view of students and put forward an alternate narrative that students are alienated and disillusioned due to their treatment by the institutions. This was not well received by some but others reached out after and have wanted to work on collaborative projects between residents and students in the Holylands.

I have also started the process of creating a Student Manifesto and the avenues in which this manifesto can be used to affect decision making at a legislative point within the university. I have worked with the Policy and Engagement Manager on establishing a process which should create the highest amount of engagement, transparency and legitimacy for which to shape our campaigns.

In addition to these, i have also represented the Students' Union at the Pride Parade, an Antifascist Demonstration and the Youth Climate Strike, as well trying to act as an aid to the first year sabbatical officers and the Chairs of Association when help is asked.