

WANT A UNION THAT LISTENS? A UNION THAT ACTS?

# VOTE TRINITY FOR UNION AFFAIRS

I WANT TO MAKE OUR UNION  
WORK FOR YOU  
AND  
HARDER TO  
IGNORE

*Trin it to Win it!*



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# TL;DR

*(i know you've got disses due)*

## EXEC & REPRESENTATION

- **Visible & Accessible** to students.
- **Keep collaboration at the core** – because the Exec should work as one, not four.
- Use my seat on Court to **turn student priorities into action.**

## POLICY THAT PUTS STUDENTS FIRST

- **Fight for fair funding** – back SOSU and challenge broken systems.
- Make **housing support** make sense – rights, guidance, advocacy.

## SUPPORT THAT MAKES SENSE

- **Expand Campus Larder** into a fully-fledged basic needs centre.
- **Make the Union website clearer** – what we do, what we don't, and where to go.

## STUDENT ACTION

- **Create an Action Centre** – a hub for social action, campaigns, with support and training for starting your own campaign, or joining existing ones.

## BETTER EVENTS & SERVICES

- Support student collectives and events – and fix the commercial strategy.

## SPACES THAT SERVE STUDENTS

- **Full space review:** postgrad lounge, society rooms, student kitchen.
- Explore options for more study and social spaces.

# MY PROMISES

**I'll represent you where it counts** - turning student priorities into action at University Court.

**I'll fight for fair funding** - backing campaigns like SOSU to protect the future of higher education.

**I'll make support make sense** - from clearer housing guidance to expanding access to essentials.

**I'll make decisions with context** - listening all voices, not just the loudest ones, and thinking about long-term impact, not just what's easy.

**I'll represent students in rooms they can't always access** - and I'll bring what happens in those rooms back to you, clearly and honestly.

**I'll help make the Union feel more human** - less corporate, less abstract; more face-to-face, more student-shaped.

**I'll lead with collaboration, not ego** - as part of a flat Exec structure, I'll work with the other Presidents as equals, sharing ideas rather than stepping on toes.

**I'll treat student time and energy with respect** - if you take the time to give feedback, raise concerns, or get involved, I'll make sure that effort goes somewhere.

**I'll ask "why not?" more often** - bureaucracy can be necessary, but it shouldn't be a default excuse. Sometimes we just need someone to say, "Let's give it a go."

**I'll keep you in the loop** - with clear updates on what the Union's doing and why.

# WHY I'M RUNNING

This year marks the start of the Union's next chapter, with new structures and roles (including this one!) this is an exciting era for student democracy, action, and representation. It's up to the incoming Exec Team to build on the foundations laid out by Cam and the Change Committee, finishing what the Change Programme started and protecting the progress we've made over the past year.

Running for a brand-new role comes with its challenges - figuring out how to approach the job description and turn it into an actionable set of goals, for one. But it also brings the opportunity to shape this post into exactly what you need.

For years, the Union, its dedicated staff, and its incredible volunteers have supported me, fought for my rights when my School was unresponsive, and given me the chance to cultivate my passions - I started off volunteering for Saints LGBT+, where I was in charge of the Pride afterparty and facilitated a collab with Amen Collective, I served a year on Saints LGBT+ committee, and since then I've been working behind the scenes to open the Union's doors for student music collectives. All of this led to HAUS putting on the largest student-run club night in Scotland this semester. And, I'm currently working on the One Union Awards afterparty alongside the fantastic teams from Frequency and Amen Collective (I better see you there, by the way).

*a bit about the role*

*my experience*

# WHY I'M RUNNING

I'm no stranger to navigating the maze of Union processes - I know what works, and what further changes are needed to make our *students'* Union truly student-friendly.

I'm not ashamed to admit that few people love or care about the Union more than I do - it's become my second home and helped me find my people here at St Andrews.

I want every student, Fresher to Postgrad, to have the same experience, if not a better one. I want our Union at the heart of our community - supporting and championing you, and helping everyone belong. I want the Union to work for YOU.

Easier said than done, I know - better crack on...

my vision

# EXEC TEAM

The Union works best when there's open two-way dialogue between students and their elected representatives - if the Exec Team isn't actively listening to students' concerns, they can't do their jobs. Because this is Your Union. It's there *for* students and being its political leaders, the Exec Team is responsible for ensuring the Union serves students to its fullest capacity.

In having a seat on University Court, it would be my job to hold the University accountable, but I'd also be held accountable by the student body. That's why I believe I, and the rest of the Exec Team, should be open, visible, and easily accessible to students - continuously engaging with students, turning feedback and consultation into action.

This can be achieved by any number of ways:

- Regular office hours.
- Online Q&A sessions.
- Using our respective pages on the new website to post regular updates.
- Or just stop us for a chat!

I would also like to introduce a portal to the new website where policies and projects are posted and regularly updated, so students can follow their progress from suggestion to implementation and know exactly what all their representatives are working on.

# REPRESENTATION THAT REACHES FURTHER

University Court - it sounds intimidating, but it's where some of the most important decisions about the future of this University get made. It's the top governing body: policies, budgets, building projects, long-term planning. If the student voice isn't strong in that room, we miss our chance to shape the future of this place.

As President of Union Affairs, I'll bring that voice in - not as a token student, but as someone who understands what's at stake and knows how to use the system.

That means:

- Representing students with the backing of real consultation and evidence.
- Working closely with the Exec Team - especially PresEd and PresWell - to present a united front.
- Arguing for change where it matters, with context, diplomacy, and backbone.
- Being someone the University wants to work with - while still pushing for what students actually need.

Let's be honest - most students don't know what University Court is, or that the Union has a seat there. That's understandable. It doesn't exactly send out student-friendly updates. But if we're going to shape what this University looks like in five or ten years, we need to be in those rooms - and we need to be taken seriously once we're there.

Currently, two student representatives sit on Court: the President of Union Affairs and the President of Education. That's not a coincidence - it's a signal that students belong at the heart of long-term planning.



## REPRESENTATION THAT REACHES FURTHER

I want to build on the example set by this year's team - where a strong PresEd-PresAf partnership meant student priorities were coordinated, consistent, and credible.

I'll work with PresEd - and the rest of the Exec Team - to make sure our shared vision becomes action. That means making space for everyone's remit, listening carefully, and knowing when to bring things together so we're pushing as one.

That's especially true when it comes to tackling big structural issues - like accessibility across Schools. I won't overstep where others lead, but I will use my seat on Court to support joint efforts by PresEd and PresWell: whether that's pushing for more flexibility in assessment, backing alternatives to traditional exams, or raising concerns about schools that have resisted change. I'm not here to claim credit - I'm here to help get things over the line.

Finally, I'll use the Union's new website to demystify this entire process - what Court is, what it does, how it connects to student issues, and how your voice can actually shape decisions. Because knowledge is power - and students deserve access to both.

## POLICY THAT PUTS STUDENTS FIRST

From rent caps to course funding, housing standards to how your degree is paid for – decisions made at the University, in the town, and by national governments shape your student experience every day.

As President of Union Affairs, I'll make sure those decisions aren't made without students' input – and that when we speak, we're taken seriously.

That means using every platform available – from University Court to the St Andrews Community Council, from Union forums to national campaigns – to push for policy that centres students, not arbitrary targets.

It also means knowing where our power is, how to use it, and when to stand in solidarity with campaigns that go beyond our own campus. Here's what that looks like in practice:

## Save Our Scottish Universities - Before It's Too Late

Scotland's universities are being squeezed - by government cuts, unsustainable funding models, and growing dependence on international student fees to fill the gaps. The Save Our Scottish Universities (SOSU) campaign calls for real change: full public funding, a move away from market-driven education, and a future where students aren't treated like walking revenue streams.

It's not fair on anyone - not international students, who are increasingly relied on to cover the shortfall, and not Scottish or UK students, who now risk being seen as a financial liability rather than a priority.

St Andrews is one of the starkest examples. While the average Scottish university relies on international fees for around 39% of its income, ours sits closer to 72%. That imbalance isn't just bad economics - it's a warning sign. It creates pressure on staff, squeezes support systems, and leaves students paying more for less.

And the worst part? Universities can't speak out without risking the very market they've been forced to depend on. So it's up to us - student voices, student unions - to say what institutions can't.

As President of Union Affairs, I'll support SOSU not as a buzzword, but as a serious campaign that deserves our full attention. I'll use the Union's platform to help students understand what's at stake - and work with national bodies like NUS Scotland to push for funding that protects the future of education in this country.

Because students shouldn't have to feel like a cost to be justified. We're not a burden - we're the reason the system exists.

## Housing That Doesn't Leave You Behind

Housing shouldn't be a nightmare - but for too many students, it still is. Whether you're in halls or hunting down a flat off Facebook Marketplace, you deserve stability, fairness, and support.

When it comes to University accommodation, the Union can make a difference. I'll work with PresWell to push for clearer rent-setting processes and consistent access to support across all halls - not just the ones with glossy photos. Transparency matters: students should know what they're paying for, and why.

But I also want to help students better understand their rights when dealing with private accommodation. We can't control private landlords, and the University can't override Fife Council's housing policies - but the Union can help. And we should do more.

That means educating, directing, and advocating for students. I'll work with PresWell to expand the Union's housing support, and explore partnerships with groups like Living Rent and NUS Scotland to back national campaigns for fairer housing standards and real rent protections.

I also want the Union's new website to be more than a noticeboard - it should be a tool. Somewhere students can more easily find:

- What your rights are.
- What the Union can help with - and where to go when it can't.
- Who to contact for legal advice, complaints, or urgent support.

Because no student should feel like they're one rent payment away from crisis. And no Union should wait to be told to do something about it.

# POLICY THAT PUTS STUDENTS FIRST

## **The Bigger Picture**

The issues we face as students aren't isolated - they're connected, structural, and often invisible until they hit us personally.

Whether it's a national campaign or a Council policy, a University reform or a rent contract, I'll bring a joined-up, student-first approach to every level of decision-making - and make sure the Union doesn't just react, but leads.

Because the systems around us won't fix themselves. But together, we can build ones that work.

# COST-OF-LIVING SUPPORT

I want to work with the PresWell to focus on expanding the Campus Larder into a fully-fledged basic needs centre for all essentials - school supplies, clothing, period & hygiene products, and more.

I plan to streamline existing initiatives by integrating them into the Campus Larder to offer more support for those who need it and make it easier to access essentials by having them all under the Campus Larder roof.

The existing period and hygiene product distribution scheme works well, but a lot of items are just lying up in the SRC office - putting them in the Campus Larder from the get-go frees up storage space and makes the products more easily accessible.

With the growing cost-of-living crisis, it's vital we remove barriers to accessing essentials - like winter coats or the kitchen appliances that always break at the worst possible time.

In running regular second-hand drives for clothes, electricals, and homewares through the Campus Larder we can provide everyone with the essentials they need, as well as reducing the amount of clothes that end up in landfill and waste of perfectly functional items. This presents a clear opportunity to explore collaborating with Transition St Andrews on the second-hand drives.

And, if we're already collecting and providing second-hand clothing, this opens up the opportunity to collaborate with Saints LGBT+ on the Trans Clothing Drive - again, streamlining the initiative and also taking pressure off student volunteers to provide essential support for students.

# STUDENT ACTION

We already have a fantastic Student Activism Guide available to all students on the website, but it comes to no surprise that it's not easily found.

I want to take things one step further, though.

I want to work with the PresOpps to set up a dedicated Action Centre that brings campaigns and student movements under one roof - open to all students interested in social action, community campaigning, and policy change.

It would bridge the gap between casual volunteers and the new Forums - making the Union more open, more responsive, and with greater engagement, harder to ignore by the University and the government.

The Action Centre would provide students with:

- Training in skills for change-making and community organising.
- Opportunities to connect with local authorities, activists, and third sector organisations focused on the areas they're passionate about.
- Speaker and networking events, as well as workshops delivered by experts, and experienced community activists.
- Opportunities, support, and resources to organise their own social action projects and campaigns, helping them make an impactful change on an area of need in the local community, Union, or University.
- An easily accessible list of on-going projects within the Union they can get involved with.

*definitely not an overnight kind of change...*

# REVIEW: SPACES, COMMERCIAL SERVICES & WEBSITE

**Website:** it isn't user friendly. It needs a complete re-design, making it easier to navigate & find important information. Students should be able to know what their elected officers are doing and what the Union is working on. The website should be interactive - not a dumping ground, but a tool for actually communicating with students.

## **Commercial Services:**

- Re-evaluate current events programme to give you better, commercially viable, nights out - continue collaborating with student music collectives to keep club nights fresh and catering to wider music tastes.
- Keep working towards making 601 a competitive and innovative events space.
- Work with the Union to ensure bars, cafés, and food services offer quality at student-friendly prices.
- Implement more staff training to keep you safe.

## **Spaces:**

- Turn Beacon into a postgrad lounge.
- Install better AV equipment in society rooms.
- Finally get a student kitchen on the top floor.
- Find a larger space to expand the Campus Larder.
- Work with the PresEd, Union and University to meet demand for more study and social spaces beyond the library and halls - especially 24-hour spaces (not an easy feat, I know!).
- Look into utilising the field behind the Union to provide better outdoor seating for the warmer months, or explore building fully accessible, bookable outdoor pods - usable year-round as study spaces, meeting rooms, or hang-out spots.

*has anyone thought about putting solar panels on the roof before? asking for a friend...*



# YOU MADE IT TO THE END!

I'm impressed - I almost didn't make it this far myself. Turns out my handwriting lies, and what looked like a relatively short set of notes (at least for me) became an eleven-page manifesto...

But I hope this has given you a sense of the vision I have for this role. Like I said at the beginning - this is an exciting time for the Union and for the incoming Exec Team.

The Union isn't perfect, but it's come a long way since I was a fresher. Don't get me wrong - there's still a way to go before it's truly great. But I want to help guide it there, and I know I've got it in me to do it.

I've seen first-hand what this role demands and the commitment it takes to be accountable for the Union's direction. It's hard not to when you're friends with Cam - one of the last people out of the building, and somehow still making time to listen to students' concerns, even off-duty at Chappell Roan Bop.

Watching his dedication, discussing the Democracy Review and this new role with him and the other Execs - that's what made me want to run. I want to leave this Union, this University, better than I found it back in 2021.

This Union gave me more than I ever expected - now I want to give something back, not quietly, but with real purpose. Let's make some noise - and make it matter.

Vote for me, and let's get our affairs in order.

- Trinity