

# Full-Time Officer Manifestos 2019-20

## VICE PRESIDENT WELFARE AND COMMUNITY **Grishma Bijukumar**

I'm Grishma Bijukumar, and I'm running to be your next **Vice President Welfare and Community**. I'm a 3rd year History student and play Defence for Bowland Netball, so I am used to saying "here if you need" a lot during matches; which is exactly what I want my time as Officer to be. I'm friendly, approachable, confident and most importantly passionate about welfare issues which impact students.

It is clear that student welfare is one of the key areas where the University is lacking; both in providing support and tackling key issues. I want to **put the student voice at the heart of my welfare campaigns and increase transparency**, so the students are more aware of what their elected officers are doing. I want to use my role to **challenge and further develop policies which could be beneficial to students but are currently falling short**. I have previously been involved with student led support groups such as **Lancaster Nightline and LU Mental Health Group**; along with being an **Academic Rep**. Currently, I'm also a **member of the Solutions Team in the Students Union**, and am part of **Edible Campus**. The key policies which my manifesto aims to address are; **sexual misconduct, mental and sexual health, and support for liberation and minority groups**.

If elected I want to;

### **Campaign Against Sexual Misconduct**

This is a campaign I am strongly passionate about as it is such a personal issue which unfortunately impacts so many students. In March 2018, ITV reported that **62% of students experienced sexual violence at British Universities**. I aim to **lay the foundations** for future work in this area by **facilitating discussions, raising awareness, and most importantly make people feel safer**. In order to achieve this, I will:

- Organise reactional events, such as **open discussion to facilitate discussion and awareness**.
- Promote a **ZERO** tolerance policy for **ALL** forms of sexual misconduct.
- Create **better signposting** and support for students who want to report an incident.
- **Provide and deliver inclusive consent bystander talks**.

### **Mental Health**

Lancaster students are often given support only during crisis- **9 days for an emergency appointment and 21 days for a non-emergency**. I want to work with the University to find a middle ground in extending mental health services and provide **better long-term support for students**. In my role, I will:

- Work with the University to **offer course coordinators in Mental Health First Aid training**.
- **Greater promotion of confidential drop in service** available and work with JCR members, Welfare and Wellbeing officers to create **better signposting system**.
- Work closely with **student led support groups and offer support** to aid them in their roles and events.
- **Build on the work from the Movember campaign** and work through the year to help decrease male mental health stigma. Create **events and invite speakers to decrease the stigma that causes some men to refrain from seeking support**.

## Sexual Health

I want to **facilitate better communication between the Students Union and the medical services** in Lancaster, **promote safe sex and make safe sex products more accessible to students**. I would do this by:

- Working with Sugarhouse to provide **free condom and lube packs in all Sugarhouse toilets**.
- Producing a **clear piece of information about STI screens in Lancaster** to enable **better signposting** and make it **accessible** for all students.
- Provide **greater promotion of the free sanitary and contraceptive products** available within the Students Union and **widen this range** of contraception to make it more **inclusive**.
- Having **free self- testing kits available** and accessible within the Students Union.

## Community

In light of recent events on campus and national statistics indicating a sharp rise in hate crime, I want to **push for action to help students of all backgrounds feel safe on campus**. I would achieve this by:

- Working actively to **aid and support minority, faith, and liberation groups**.
- Work with the Chaplaincy to accommodate a **permanent worship place for Hindus and Sikhs** on campus.
- **Promoting different religious celebrations and working efficiently with other faith groups**.
- Taking an **active role in the Ethnic Diversity Committee** to offer support in their projects and make **Black History Month bigger and better**.
- Raising **more recycling awareness and being eco-friendly**.
- Working with the University to encourage departments to provide **more bursaries for Postgraduate students** and **greater investment for PG students**.

Thank you so much for reading my manifesto. If you're interested in finding out how I will implement my policies, please check out my full manifesto via this link: <https://teamgblancaster.wordpress.com/?fbclid=IwAR3abg3aR8t11RI70FhIUgBb0UaYvOn2aHI14Z2tMPfsnTQGdcY0uasJP2g>

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**#TeamGB**