

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Equality and Diversity

Name: Suyi Yang

Period: October

Introduction:

As the Equality and Diversity Student Officer at the Students' Union, my role is to advocate for an inclusive and supportive environment where all students, regardless of background or identity, feel represented and valued. I work closely with various teams across the Queen's and Queen's Students' Union to make sure students' voice is heard. Through campaigns, events, and initiatives, I aim to foster a campus culture that celebrates equality and empowers students from all walks of life.

Activity	Description
Black History Month Launch	I attended the Black History Month Launch Event alongside the Students' Union President, where I gave a short speech highlighting how the Students' Union actively supports equality, diversity, and inclusion for all students and staff at Queen's.
Minority Recognition Award NI Award Night	I attended the Minority Recognition NI Awards Night with staff members from the Race Equality Charter (REC) and the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) team at Queen's. Queen's University sponsored the Inspiring Campaign Award, which was won by Carlos Sanha from HIP Psychology. Carlos has been a key advocate in improving the social and emotional wellbeing of schoolchildren across Northern Ireland. Alongside REC Manager Lauren Gallagher, I co-presented the award to Carlos, an inspiring moment that reflected the incredible work being done to enhance inclusion and support mental health in the community.
Race Equality Charter Survey Meeting	I met with the REC team to discuss the upcoming REC Survey, which will be launched in November and run for three weeks. This survey is a valuable tool for understanding the experiences of the diverse student body at Queen's. During the meeting, I suggested a few promotional strategies to help boost student participation, including featuring the survey in the Students' Union newsletter and setting up information stalls

	in the foyer to raise awareness and encourage involvement.
Liberation Meeting with NUS	I met with Camilo from NUS regarding their upcoming Liberation Collective Workshop, which they are planning to host in Belfast. NUS aims to build a liberation network across the UK, and we discussed how the Students' Union can support this initiative. The workshop is scheduled for November 12th, and we are pleased to offer the venue and be actively involved in this important networking event, which will help connect and empower liberation groups across the country.
Sanctuary Meeting	I attended the Sanctuary meeting, where I met with all the members to discuss updates to the Sanctuary website and the Student Action Group on Sanctuary. Federica shared the documentation for Queen's to apply for City of Sanctuary status in Belfast. We reviewed the application form together and exchanged thoughts on how to strengthen it, focusing on how Queen's can contribute to making Belfast a more inclusive and welcoming city for refugees and asylum seekers.
NUS-USI Meeting	I attended the NUS-USI meeting with Welfare Officer Jess. During the meeting, we discussed the housing survey led by NUS President Ben, which aims to address student housing issues across the region. We decided to invite Ben to campus on October 17th to run a housing campaign and encourage more students to participate in the survey. This event will be a crucial step in gathering data to advocate for improved housing conditions for students.
Association Chair Training	I participated in the Association Chair Training session alongside Campaign Engagement Officer Saj, the SU Voice Team, and the Clubs & Societies Team. This training was essential in equipping association chairs with the leadership skills and knowledge needed to run their organizations effectively, ensuring that they represent and support their members well.
Rainbow Crossing Project	I made progress on my rainbow crossing project. After meeting with staff from the EDI department at Queen's, we brainstormed potential locations for the crossing and discussed how this initiative could further promote inclusivity on campus. I followed up

	<p>by emailing the Estates Department to request a digital map of the campus, which will help us identify the most suitable spot for the rainbow crossing.</p>
<p>Lunch with Dr Temple Grandin</p>	<p>I had the opportunity to join a lunch with Dr. Temple Grandin, a renowned advocate for neurodiverse individuals. Listening to her personal experiences and insights on supporting neurodiverse students at Queen's was truly inspiring. Her talk reinforced my commitment as a student officer to creating a more inclusive environment at the Students' Union, where all students, regardless of their needs, can thrive and feel supported.</p>
<p>evasys Student Engagement Forum Dublin</p>	<p>I joined the Student Engagement Forum with the team at Trinity College Dublin, where I participated in several workshops covering topics such as student well-being, student engagement, fostering a sense of belonging, and amplifying the student voice.</p> <p>A co-presentation by Professor Judy Williams and President Kieran on how to enhance student feedback at Queen's University. The forum provided a fantastic opportunity for me to engage in conversations with staff from other universities, allowing me to hear about their experiences and strategies.</p>
<p>Student Union Council</p>	<p>I attended the first student council meeting with the Student Officer team and the SU Voice team. During this meeting, I presented my plan of work for the year. We also held elections for the student council speaker and several other positions within the council. The Voice team provided an overview of the structure of the student council.</p>