

# Re-Elect Niamh Murtagh



DEDICATED

EXPERIENCED

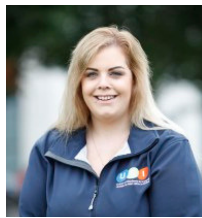
PASSIONATE

#BelieveInNiamh

## US/VP Welfare



# Hello!



A chara,

My name is Niamh and I am the current Vice President for Welfare at the Union of Students in Ireland.

Serviing as your Welfare officer for the past 9 months has given me an unimaginable amount of experience and has given me the opportunity to do so many things for students across the island of Ireland.

I have worked on behalf of students since 2011 and understand how much work and dedication this role entails. I always give 110% and feel so privileged to work on behalf of over 374,000 students every day.

I secured free healthcare for all 374,000 USI affiliated students with online G.P service video doc. We have acheived so many things so fare such as securing 100,000 condoms and sachets of lube for students, re designing our mental health roadshow, re-designing or Sexual Health roadshow, training over 100 students in Mental Health First Aid and ASIST, releasing the largest 3rd level mental health survey, creating an expert group for consent, a mental health advisory group, securing further training funding for mental health, sexual health campaigns and funds to develop a mental health first aid app for students to name a few.

There are so many projects started that I would love the opportunity to follow through and relationships I have built that would love to continue working on. I know the role, and am the most experienced person, and I know I can do the best job for the students of USI.

Thank you for taking the timeto read my manifesto.

Le grá,

## Niamh

Niamh Murtagh  
Vice President Welfare  
Union of Students in Ireland  
2017/18





# Plans **KEY AREAS**

## **Mental Health**

This year I have worked really hard in the area of Mental Health. The Chats for Change Campaign celebrated its 5th year so the Mental Health Roadshow was completely redesigned where we handed out over 20,000 Re-usable cups. We also trained over 100 students in ASIST & Mental Health First Aid. I worked to Re-brand the student support card, introduced the inclusion of the LGBT Helpline and the first NI specific version of the card. I've built a close relationship with our newly introduced Mental Health Project Manager and released the largest Mental Health survey for students across the island. If elected I want to continue this work, present our findings to the Department of Health and continue to work with the NOSP to coordinate and run more mental health training than ever for students.

## **Sexual Health**

Our Sexual Health Campaign this year was completely redesigned and we were able to distribute 20,000 packs that included cards with information on consent, contraception and STI's. I also secured 10,000 euro extra in funding for the sexual health campaign and a total of 100,000 condoms and lube sachets for college campuses.

If re-elected I also want to ensure that all information on crisis pregnancy and abortion includes all options available and that we officially cease to disseminate information from two option organisations such as Cura. If re-elected I also want to collate our own un-biased information on abortion aftercare, and collaborate with organisations such as the IFPA and National Womens Council of Ireland.

## **Consent**

Consent is a vital issue among the student population and is something that I want to see through to ensure implementation of Train the Trainer consent classes. At present I have created an expert group to advise on the implementation of the consent classes to ensure we get roll out the best ones possible. I will also ensure a standalone consent campaign is implemented, separate from our sexual health campaign, as well as an element within our sexual health roadshow.

## **Cyber Bullying**

Bullying and social media pressures have become huge over the past number of years, and with it only evolving further I think it's important that we have a strategy to deal with that as well as a nationally led campaign. I have written a cyber-bullying policy to be passed at congress that will guide the roll out of a national cyber bullying campaign and steps to lobby for specific legislation around online harassment.

## **Alcohol & Drugs**

Alcohol & Drugs continues to be a huge issue among the student population. If re-elected I want to continue lobbying and working with Alcohol Action Ireland to ensure the Implementation of Public Health (Alcohol) Bill in its fullest form.

After looking into the feasibility of Drug Testing Kits, it is apparent there is not enough data to conclude as to whether they in fact a good harm reduction tool. I want to work with MO's on the issues they are facing and continue working with Drugs.ie on their initiatives on harm reduction and education around drug taking in Ireland.

I also want to ensure the expansion of awareness around drug and alcohol driving which we included in our drug and alcohol awareness week this year.

## **Training for Officers**

Training for student officers so that they have as much information at their fingertips as possible is so important. One of the tough issues that officers sometimes face is bereaved students who have lost a classmate or family member. If elected this is training that I will ensure officers to get so they can look after themselves and their students.

## EXPERIENCE & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Current Vice President for Welfare at the Union of Students in Ireland.
- Secured Free Healthcare from online GP Service Video Doc for all USI affiliated students.
- Re-designed the Chats for Change Roadshow & released largest 3rd level Mental Health Survey.
- Re-designed S.H.A.G packs, secured an extra 10,000 euro in funding and 100,000 condoms & lube sachets.
- Set up expert group on consent.
- Trained over 100 students in ASIST & Mental Health First Aid, and secured future training fund.
- Secured funding for Mental Health First Aid App.
- USI Vice President for the Southern Region 2016/17.
- Vice President Welfare 2014-2016 -ITTSU.
- Communications Officer 2011/12 -ITTSU
- Societies Officer 2013/14 -ITTSU
- Congress Delegate 2012 onwards.
- Member of USI Nurses Campaign Committee, Students for Choice Task Force, Campaigns Sub-Committee and Citizenship Sub Committee..

Coined the slogan "Am I worth 6.49" for USI Nurses Campaign and "I am a Reason" for USI Mental Health Campaign First Institute to appoint Consent Steering Committee and run consent workshops for incoming 1st Year Students.

Registered 1,000 students to vote in the run up to Marriage Equality Referendum. Outstanding Contribution to Student Life.

Raised over €50,000 for Charities such as Project Uganda, Recovery Haven, Enable Ireland, MS Ireland, Cope Foundation, Harolds Cross Hospice & Care Services.

## TRAINING

- USI Activist Academy & PTO Training
- Safetalk Training
- ASIST Training
- SUT 2014,2015,2016,2017
- IFPA Sexual Health Training
- Screening and Brief Intervention for Problem Alcohol and Drug use Training
- HSE Sexual Health Promotion Training (6 month course)
- RCC Rape Crisis and Consent Training.

## A bit about Niamh!

Niamh is 29 years old and hails from Terenure in Dublin. She spent 8 years in Tralee Co. Kerry where she completed an MA in Environmental Science and a BA in TV, Radio & New Media Broadcasting at the Institute of Technology Tralee.

Niamh was first elected to the students' union in 2011/12 where she served as Communications Officer part-time. Since, Niamh served as Societies Officer and two terms as Vice President for Welfare at IT Tralee Students' Union.

Niamh is the current Vice President for Welfare at the Union of Students in Ireland, previously the Vice President for the Southern Region.

### Contact Niamh

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