

Hi, I'm Lauren. I'm at Leeds University and I feel fortunate to have been involved in Jewish student life and represent UK Jewish students locally, nationally and internationally. I want everyone to have a valued place in our union and gain something from being part of it, whether you're here for a shiur, a schmooze or shots.

My manifesto:

Making UJS relevant to you:

Lots of us can feel detached from UJS. The benefits of UJS aren't always clear, for J-Socs and individuals. UJS can feel faraway or out of touch, but this won't be the reality.

I will make UJS:

- **Transparent:** you deserve to know how UJS is working for you, so I'll hold monthly accountability sessions that are online and accessible to you.
- **Responsible for our mental health:** there's a mental health crisis. Students face increased pressure and wait too long for help. We will offer everyone Mental Health First Aid training, support J-Socs to promote wellbeing and ensure students' unions and universities offer culturally sensitive support.
- **Personalised:** the members create the J-Socs, so no two J-Socs are alike. UJS must restructure J-Soc funding, offer in-depth training on denominational inclusivity and provide year-round development so all Jewish students are catered for.
- **Autonomous:** our networks for LGBTQ+, Women and Disabled students need elected committees so people with lived experience can drive the campaigns and create meaningful change.

Fighting antisemitism:

CST recorded 727 antisemitic incidents, including 16 in a university environment, in the first half of 2018 – the second-highest ever. But a single incident is one too many. We all have the right to be proud and open about our Judaism, without fear. We must play an active part in building a cohesive society, fighting the hatred we face and standing with others who face prejudices too.

I'll make sure we:

- **Campaign:** working with J-Socs for all students' unions and universities to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.
- **Make our Israel activism grassroots:** ensuring the 'Bridges not Boycotts' campaign reflects your priorities. Israel activism will be driven by you and supported by UJS. The 'Real Deal' trip will be offered to Sabbatical Officers.
- **Educate:** empowering you to engage confidently in discussions and educating others on the differences between antisemitism, anti-Zionism and legitimate criticisms of the Israeli government.

Getting connected:

UJS has positively impacted thousands of students over its 100 years and our alumni can offer so much. There's also a huge variety of Jewish organisations that provide opportunities for us to enhance our Jewish experiences, through trips abroad, leadership, learning, and campaigning, all with a Jewish focus.

I'll help UJS connect you to:

- **Our alumni network:** from employment and mentoring opportunities guest speakers and financial support for your J-Soc, our alumni will benefit you on campus and beyond.

- **Jewish students around the world:** by strengthening our partnerships with the European and World Unions of Jewish Students, we'll create opportunities for your time abroad and develop campaigns internationally.
- **The causes you care about:** UJS's great work on interfaith, Holocaust education and social action needs opening up to all students. I'll provide more than just an online guide; we need practical tools to run grassroots campaigns, developing your visions and seeing them through.