

## Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

### Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Equality and Diversity

Name: Suyi Yang

Period: February

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
Race Equality Week Breakfast	I attended the Race Equality Week Breakfast networking event, where PVC EDI Peter Robertson presented the results from the Race Equality Survey. I also gave a speech on the Students' Union's achievements in working toward building race equity at Queen's throughout the academic year.
Path to Sanctuary Operational Group	I participated in the Path to Sanctuary Committee meeting, where we discussed updates on the Sanctuary Scholarship, particularly the current challenges related to insufficient resources and budgets. We also reviewed the latest developments in the application process for the University of Sanctuary.
NSPCC Listen up Speak up & QUB Safeguarding Children Overview	I attended the child safeguarding training organized by NSPCC. During the workshop, we explored the potential reasons why children might fail to disclose their experiences. Through case studies, we learned about the actions that can be taken in various scenarios to support and protect children.
Race Equality Week Stand	During Race Equality Week (3rd-7th February), I organized the race equality stalls with REC on campus. I created interactive games with various themes, such as Recognize the Privilege, inclusive language, and code-switching. At the stalls, students learned about Race Equality Week and discovered the efforts we've made at Queen's to promote race equality.

Union Management Board	I attended the Union-Management Board meeting, where I presented updates on my recent work to the members.
Varsity Celebration Event	I attended the Varsity Celebration with the officers' team, which marked a significant milestone for the Students' Union, as we hosted the first varsity event with Ulster University. We congratulated the players on their victory in the varsity competition.
Cultural Awareness Workshop	I attended the cultural awareness workshop hosted by Dr. Poppy Boyd from Queen's Language Centre. In this workshop, I learned about explicit and implicit culture and how to be more mindful when communicating with people from different cultural backgrounds. This workshop was particularly valuable to me as the Equality and Diversity Officer, as it enhanced my understanding of the cultural diversity at Queen's.
5 <sup>th</sup> Student Council	I attended the 5 <sup>th</sup> Student Council. New societies have been approved by councilors. Ideas that been submitted been approved by councillors and will take actions on pushing it forward. Motions have been raised by councillors and take amendments.
CNY Lantern Festival Celebration	I co-organized the Lantern Festival celebration at One Elmwood Foyer with staff from the Language Centre. Students learned about the Lantern Festival as part of the celebration marking the end of Chinese New Year.
Housing Quiz and Housing Fair	The President, Welfare Student Officer, and I hosted two nights of housing quizzes at Queen's accommodations BT1 and BT9. We had a great turnout, and students were really impressed with the housing-related knowledge shared during the event. The officer team and I also participated in the Housing Fair, where we explained the fair to students and presented the Housing Contract Checklist and Housing Hunting Checklist.
Outcome Meeting	A student requested my support during an exam outcomes meeting. I reassured her during the meeting and signposted her to the SU Advice service for further assistance.
RGSU International Student Survey	I organized a 3-day stall to promote the RGSU International Student Survey. The turnout was excellent, and I also offered international students the SU Advice guide during the event.

Health & Safety Committee Meeting	I attended the Health and Safety meeting and raised current issues concerning health and safety in the One Elmwood Building. I highlighted problems such as the building's poor maintenance, the lack of cleaners, and the front accessible door, which is often broken and needs to be fixed regularly. The Chair and the Health and Safety Department have noted these issues and will be working with the team to address them.
LGBTQueens: Celebration Showcase	I attended the LGBTQ+ celebration event to mark LGBTQ+ History Month, where I delivered a speech on how we support one another within our LGBTQ+ community at Queen's. I also highlighted the contributions of the LGBTQ+ and Trans Student Associations in their efforts on the student survey addressing the impact of queerphobia. Additionally, I had the opportunity to network with the Rainbow Project, the Rainbow Refugee, and Cara Friendly Charity. I hope to invite them to deliver a workshop at the Students' Union in the future.