



**BIRKBECK  
STUDENTS'  
UNION**  
HERE FOR YOU

# LILY BOODHOO

**BAME Student's Liberation  
Leader**



# About Lily's Role:

Lily is a **BAME Students Liberation Leader**. The purpose of this role is to represent the needs and views of all BAME students at Birkbeck. You will work on behalf of Birkbeck students to improve the student experience; lobby the University to make positive change at Birkbeck, attend University committees and meet regularly with leadership and create a Birkbeck community.

## Her main responsibilities include:

- Represent the views of students at Birkbeck.
  - As a representative of Birkbeck students, be the face of the Students' Union
  - Be a point of contact for Birkbeck students
  - To proactively collect feedback and input from students regularly to ensure work is representative.
  - Attend University meetings and committees, elevating the student voice at these levels
  - Sit on Academic Panels
  - Meet regularly with key leaders in the University
- **Work with Birkbeck University to ensure their work meets students' needs, and improve the student experience.**
  - Chair and organize the Black Students Network
  - Create initiatives to improve the student experience for black students at Birkbeck
  - Lobby the University for change
  - Negotiate best outcomes for students
  - Run campaigns, events and activities to benefit and enhance the student experience
- **Develop a community for Birkbeck students.**
  - Create initiatives to improve the student experience
  - Create opportunities for students to network with other students, or to increase engagement with Union activity
- **Attend Student Union meetings.**

# Manifesto:

*“My top 5 priorities for the year are:*

## **1. A safety and support network for BAME students.**

*I am hoping to create a more effective and supportive safety system for BAME students who seek both academic and social advice, along with guidance when dealing with grievances and BAME-related issues, including mental health. I am looking to set up a direct system that is separate from the complaints system the university offers so that when students come to the Student Union about a BAME-related grievance or issue, they can be given a better support system that is tailored to them and their needs*

## **2. Tackling the awarding gap for BAME students.**

*There is a large awarding gap for students who identify with BAME that receive lower grades in comparison to students outside of BAME. I am looking to challenge this by spreading awareness and educating students as well as academics on how they can improve this through support and guidance of assessment practice and workshops.*

## **3. Enhancing ways to tackle plagiarism within BAME.**

*Plagiarism is more likely to occur with students within BAME in comparison to other groups of students outside of that community. Similarly, as tackling the awarding gap, I am hoping to enhance ways to tackle plagiarism and minimise the outcome of plagiarism likely happening to a BAME student. By operating with the current structures in place with the examination board, I am hoping to work closely with various parts of the BAME community to help educate and spread awareness of how much minimising this issue can improve higher academic achievement.*

**4. Promoting BAME-related societies as well as encouraging more to form (within eligibility).** *Currently, the existing BAME societies need more promotion across all social media platforms, as well as the possibility of having more societies and clubs that are BAME-related should be encouraged. The reason I am making this one of my top priorities is because community and diversity are such an integral part of Birkbeck. When promoting the current societies, it will increase the importance of having them as part of our Student Union and university. Also, by encouraging more societies to form, it can increase the recognition and importance that all cultures deserve to have as well as what it means to be a part of a society that students can feel a part of.*

## **5. Fundraising for the BAME network and Student Union.**

*There needs to be more funding for BAME and for the Student Union to be able to give more to the students during their time with us at Birkbeck. I would like to carry out various funding raising events (a minimum of three, potentially have more) to help support the BAME community and Student Union financially so there could be improved support for Birkbeck students.*

*I hope that with the backing of the Student Union, Birkbeck, and students I can make a positive change for everyone to the best of my abilities. Thank you for electing me and I look forward to working closely with all of you during my tenure.”*

# Committee Attendance Stats:

## **Board of Trustee Attendance:**

Term 1: 0/3

Term 2: 0/1

## **Student Parliament Attendance:**

Term 1: 0/1

Term 2: 0/1

## **Executive Committee Attendance:**

Term 1: 2/4

Term 2: 0/2

## **Recommendations from Scrutiny Term 1:**

Commendation

Recommendation #1: Continue to promote external opportunities with students.

# Report

**Name:** Lily Boodhoo

**Role:** BAME Students' Liberation Leader (9 Hours)

**Term:** Term Two

## **Introduction:**

My focuses in term two was to produce ways to tackle the awarding gap issues and plagiarism, creating a better safety and support network for BAME students, continuously promote clubs and societies, and doing my utmost best to challenge and provide positive outcomes to other issues.

## **Manifesto Objectives and Outcomes:**

### **1. Tackling the awarding gap for BAME students.**

I am currently working with Birkbeck's Student Success Tutor to tackle the 30% awarding gap for BAME students.

- BAME Student Enhancement Gathering is set up, facilitated, and coordinated by me whilst Birkbeck's Student Success structures and carries out the sessions using her expertise. This has been set up in advance before the emergence of the proposal of an Awarding Gap Report Implementation Group which will report to the Education Committee.
- Awareness and promotion of the Black Students Connect Group ran by the HASS Learning Development Manager.
- BAME Support Guide.
- Reporting system via the focus groups.

### **2. Enhancing ways to tackle plagiarism within BAME.**

This is partially linked to the above manifesto point and being investigated alongside the awarding gap for BAME students with the Student Success Tutor.

- The focus on this is the mitigated circumstances guidelines as I am actively finding ways to improve it to be inclusive to BAME students, it is a work in progress.
- In addition, I am looking to making social media content with the Academic Support Team and the library for the BAME Network that will acknowledge and education students about plagiarism and the use of study skills which will indirectly aid to tackling the awarding gap.
- BAME Support Guide.

### **3. Promoting BAME-related societies as well as encouraging more to form (within eligibility).**

I have been encouraging clubs and societies to form through the BAME Network Instagram page by:

- Promoting them on the page whenever there are opportunities to repost and make use of the social media platform.
- Reaching out to students on that platform using interactive posts to grow the network, to give clarity about issues, and making it a safe space for students to interact.
- Personally reached out to most Birkbeck clubs and societies via email to extend my support to them whilst promoting the focus group.

### **4. A safety and support network for BAME students.**

To create more of a safety and support network for BAME Students I have successfully:

- Highlighted what culture shock and homesickness is in collaboration with the International Network.
- Collaborated with our Welfare Officer to promote the Food Pantry to BAME students to support them in the cost-of-living crisis.
- Promoted engagement and membership of the BAME Network through social media and in person events such as the Loneliness mixer and focus group this term.
- Black Students Connect Group.
- The BAME Student Enhancement Gathering focus group is multifaceted. It creates indirectly a support group for students that need a safe space to share their opinions and experiences without fear of repercussions, as an interim reporting system.
- BAME Support Guide.

#### **5. Fundraising for the BAME network and Student Union.**

This is ongoing. I have stated in my manifesto to have a minimum of three events, however due to the nature of commitments increasing this term for other manifesto points and the previous term being dedicated to other issues outside of my role for students, I am looking to condense this manifesto point by achieving the overall goal of fundraising by creating a donation link that alumni and external organisations can donate to for the SU long term.

#### **Other Outcomes:**

- Meeting VC Big ask for communication in relation to law and other departments.
- Law issues I have tackled have been successful but collaborative work is being done with the Education Officer.
- HASS newsletter section promo of SU.
- Multifaith room.
- BAME Loneliness mixer, part of Welfare Officer's Loneliness Campaign.
- Race Equality Charter self-assessment team.

#### **Achievements:**

- BAME Student Enhancement Gathering.
- Overall progress on the awarding gap.
- BAME Support Guide.
- Working collaboratively with internal and external opportunities.
- Just putting myself out there (whether it is to be silly or serious).
- Growth in the BAME Network community.

#### **Notes to Panel:**

- 25 students took an interest to roles with Nisaba volunteering for admin and translation services from Birkbeck students. Nisaba has said they are always still in need of admin and welcome students to get involved. I could not confirm if interests went further due to confidentiality of information. Currently working on getting a blood drive set up with a charity as another external opportunity for students.