

# 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.**

# Lily's 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.*

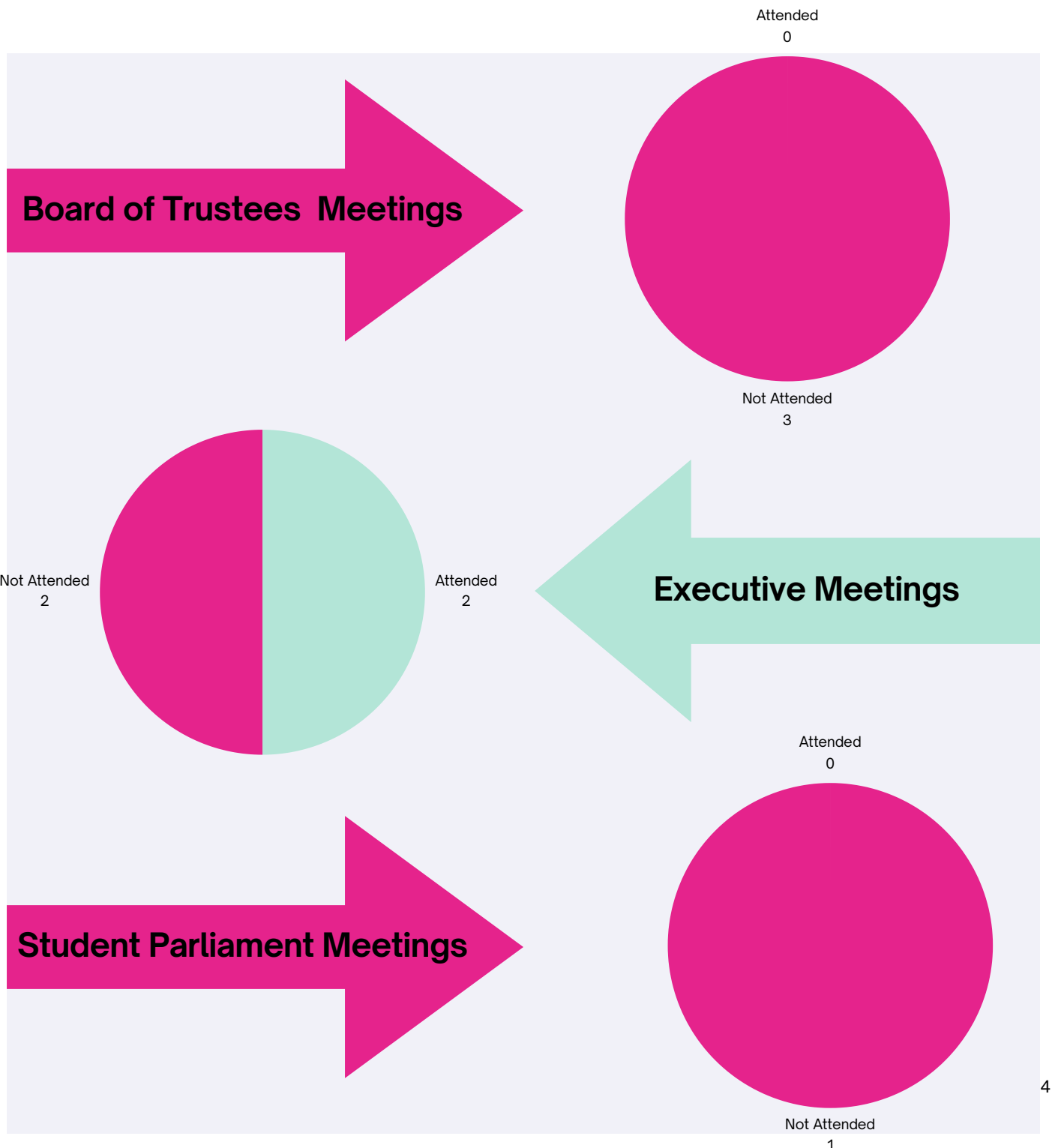
**4. Promoting BAME-related societies as well as encouraging more to form (within eligibility).** *Currently, the existing BAME societies need more promotion across all social media platforms, as well as the possibility of having more societies and clubs that are BAME-related should be encouraged. The 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:



Lily Boodhoo  
BAME Students' Liberation Leader (9 Hours)  
Term One

## **Introduction:**

My focus in term one was tackling issues that arise before and since I was elected as BAME Students' Liberation Leader. As well as promoting BAME related clubs and societies and creating new and ongoing opportunities for Birkbeck students inside and outside of Birkbeck.

## **Manifesto Objectives and Outcomes:**

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

This is in the beginning process of being investigated and actioned. I am currently in touch with the Student Success Tutor and discussing ways to close the 30% awarding gap for BAME students. Once we can come to possible solutions my next steps would be to reach out to the Chair of Education to starting or reinstating a BAME Awarding Gap Committee as a dedicated groups to tackling the gap.

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

Like my previous objective on the awarding gap, this is partially linked and is in the beginning process of being investigated alongside the awarding gap for BAME students with the Student Success Tutor. In addition, I am looking to making content with the Academic Support Team for the BAME Network social media page that will acknowledge and education students on this issue.

### **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 for that. In addition, I have been doing my best to reach out to students on that platform using interactive posts to grow the network, give clarity about issues, and making it a safe space for students to interact.

## **Other Outcomes:**

- Supporting the Open Society University Network (OSUN) with Al-Quds Bard—University Palestine, due to ongoing conflict I have made sure that we are open to sending and accepting communication amongst students willing to participate.
- Tackling postgraduate Law department issues, more attention is being focused on this by colleagues so issues can be managed with efficiently by the University when supporting members of staff in dealing with student issues. Examples of issues that were raised are mainly related to enrolment, timetabling, module assigning, and communication to students at the start of term. A survey was conducted which 25 students did take part in relations to those issues. Still awaiting more outcomes to this as a meeting will be taking place to see how the University can help in implementing to support students now and in the future with these issues.

## **Achievements:**

- Successfully promoting Black History Month and creating a partnership with the library to promote Black History related literature which students loved.
- Supported DanceSport club in promoting a new initiative at Birkbeck named Black in the Ballroom. The club ended up with a turnout of roughly 60-90 tickets sold.
- Positively working with Nisaba, a non-profit organisation, to get students involved in volunteering opportunities.
- BAME mixer success, 8-9 students attended which helped them network with other peers and created awareness of wanting to take part in volunteering opportunities in the future. Also Gained feedback for future events to be held.