

GUSA Council Member - Nomination Form & Manifesto 2024/25

Position:	Inclusion and Culture Convenor
Name:	Lilly Roy
Club:	Athletics and gymnastics



	Nominator's Name	Signature
1.	<u>Evan Edwards</u>	<u>EE</u>
2.	<u>Adham Sanoufi</u>	<u>AS</u>

Hi! I'm Lilly Roy, a second year medical student and active member of both GUSA athletics and gymnastics. I knew that I wanted to join a sports team at university as sport has always been a huge part of my life, so when I moved to Glasgow I immediately joined athletics and became heavily involved in GUSA. This year I was on GUSA Welfare committee. In 2024/25 the role of Inclusion and Culture Convenor is changing to focus more on the ethnicity, diversion and inclusion (EDI) initiatives and campaigns, which is what I have been responsible for this year as the EDI lead for Welfare committee. As EDI lead I organised black history month which involved sharing the sporting experiences of our black athletes to raise awareness of the challenges that they may face in sport. This year I was also a GUSA fresher's helper and a member of GUSA events committee. This involved helping run and organise multiple GUSA events, allowing me to gain valuable experience and develop ideas as to how future inclusion and culture events can be run.

CROSS-CAMPUS INCLUSIVITY;

-I want to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of GUSA for international students. To do this I will work closely with UofG International Student Support (ISS), the main point of contact for international students at Glasgow. I will increase the GUSA representation at their numerous events where appropriate and have more involvement and integration with them specifically during freshers week, a key time for increasing club membership.

-I will also work with SRC affiliated societies for example the GCSSA (Glasgow Chinese Students and Scholars Association) to gauge their interest in taster sessions or a similar set up to recstravaganza that ran this year. I plan to discover if there are barriers preventing their members from joining a sport and how we can overcome these.

-I am aware that some international students do not use Instagram, which is a main method of communication for GUSA. Looking into other apps and methods of communication such as 'WeChat' which is widely used by international students will ensure the accessibility of GUSA to a wider array of individuals.

INCLUSION AND CULTURE EVENTS;

-The inclusion and culture calendar is very full with campaigns to run such as Black History Month, Movember, LGBTQ+ History Month, Mental Health Awareness Month and many others. This year I will set up more events throughout the year, moving away from having these campaigns promoted only on social media. My ideas include inviting speakers to share their experiences during relevant months, working with the Health and Fitness Convenor to organize a fun run or friendly sporting competition whilst wearing rainbow laces for the rainbow laces campaign and holding more fundraisers and exam de-stress events.

-After speaking to several club welfare convenors about how they felt their role went this year, I will hold two drop-ins each semester where welfare convenors can ask any questions they may have about campaigns and can share their ideas. Convenors also gave excellent feedback on the beyond equality training that members of their clubs took part in and I look to arrange more of these workshops in the future.

SIGNPOSTING AND SUPPORT;

-University and all that comes with it can take a toll on the mental health of individuals, so I will work with the new Inclusion and Culture sub-committee to make a comprehensive and succinct document posted on our Linktree signposting individuals to the support available if they are struggling, including charities such as BEAT, Papyrus and services available through the university.

-Although welfare complaints are now to be directly emailed to the GUSA president, I will update the Linktree with a document outlining this process that occurs after a complaint or issue is raised. Speaking out about complaints and issues can be intimidating and a clear outline of next steps will relieve anxiousness about the process. This also ensures that club welfare convenors are aware of their role if a member of their club does raise a complaint or issue to them.

REPRESENTATION;

This year I will work with the publicity convenor to ensure that all our social media pages are more representative of all types of diverse individuals as GUSA is sometimes not viewed as an inclusive place from an outside perspective. From my personal sporting experience as a woman of colour, I know that seeing oneself represented is far more likely to make an individual want to try something new such as a GUSA sport.

Sport is one of the best things that one can do for both their physical, mental and social health and in what can be a stressful university environment, it is more crucial than ever. My overarching aim therefore is to make sport as accessible and welcoming to every individual - international students, individuals of colour, members of the LGBTQ+ society, those with a disability etc. using the ideas outlined above. My experience on events team, as a fresher's helper and my year spent on welfare committee as EDI lead have equipped me with the skills required to achieve this aim and have left me confident in my ability to **CARRY** out the role of Inclusion and Culture Convenor to a very high standard. Thank you for reading my manifesto, and I hope that I now have your vote!

