

'My Role'- Women and Non-Binary Officers

What is your role? / What do you do?

We are the Women and Non-Binary Officers and we run campaigns and events throughout the year in aid of women and non-binary issues on campus. These can range from socials, such as our 'Pizza and the Patriarchy' event we hosted in Freshers' Week, to our annual celebrations for International Women's Week.

What interested you about the role?

We had joined the network committee in our first term and had been inspired by the work of the current officers. We wanted to continue the network's inclusive environment while voicing the concerns of the students it represents.

Why did you decide to nominate yourself?

We decided to nominate ourselves because we wanted to make tangible change. The experience we gained from being on the committee had given us an insight into how the network functioned and what our role as officers would mean if we were to be elected.

How did it feel being elected?

Being elected was so exciting and rewarding. We weren't sure how many people would vote for us or engage with our campaign, at the time, as we were only first years but the amount of support we received then (and still now) completely motivated us.

What are you most proud of having done in your role so far?

The events that we put on in the autumn term of this year have been really exciting. Our Freshers' Week event Pizza and the Patriarchy was our first big event as officers and it went fabulously, the first years were really engaged and the turnout was more than we expected (the pizza ran out pretty quickly). Collaboratively, we are most proud of the campaign we ran for the UN's 16 Days of Activism in partnership with UN Women UK York, YUSU Community and Wellbeing and Free The Flow York. The engagement with the palm pledge was particularly successful as was the Rattlesnake screening and college collection drive for sanitary products. The end of the next term hosts our biggest series of events which is in celebration of International Women's Week 2020 with our theme being 'intersectionality'.

What have you gained by being an Officer?

The most invaluable thing we gained was the support and community of our network. Working as a team to make a difference to students is very rewarding, and being able to work with the staff and sabbs at YUSU makes everything easier.

What advice would you give to somebody thinking about doing your role?

This role is what you make it. Aim high and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. Make sure to listen to the students you represent and you can't go wrong.