



Funding a Ticket to "Improving BAME Outcomes in Further and Higher Education" Conference (expenditure request)

What we will do:

1. Fund a ticket for Diva Mukherji, the current BME officer and co-founder of LiberatEd, to attend the conference (£119).

"Join Holyrood as we examine the key barriers and challenges to improving BAME outcomes in further and higher education. We will consider what more can be done to tackle ethnicity-related disparities in access and outcomes - challenging our shortcomings and building on successes. At this event, we will examine what actions institutions can take to shape how BAME students access and engage with education, overall creating positive experiences, improving attainment and positive outcomes."

Background to this:

1. LiberatEd is a student-led initiative started in 2016 which aims to create a more intersectional and inclusive curriculum. It also challenges the lack of diversity in academic spaces, specifically in both the student body and academic staff.
2. In February 2017, student council passed a NUS Scotland Motion to lobby universities to be more inclusive of people of colour - through curriculum and representation in student body and academic staff

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. This conference addresses the key barriers and challenges to improving BME outcomes in higher education.
2. It considers what a holistic institutional approach and response to BME issues in higher education may be, contextualizing it specifically within Scotland. This includes discussions around low attainment of BME students (particularly relevant to University of Edinburgh which has the lowest attainment of black students of any Russell Group university at 0.7%) and the BME attainment gap.
3. The conference is hosting speakers from various prominent groups, such as the Scottish Association of Minority Ethnic Educators, and would be essential in networking with individuals and organizations that are dedicated to these causes.
4. Most significantly it will provide action plans for institutions to deal with these situations, rather than just provide background to the situation.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.