Representing Trans and Non-Binary Students

What will we do:

1. Amend Edinburgh University Students’ Association ‘Student Democracy Regulations’ as follows:
   a) Part 1, Section C: ii) b) delete the word “four” and insert in its place the word “five”;
   b) Part 1, Section C: ii) b) insert “5) Trans and Non-Binary Officer”;
   c) Part 2, Section A: i) a) 2) delete the word “four” and insert in its place the word “five”;
   d) Part 1, Section B: i) a) 2) insert “5) Trans and Non-Binary Officer”;

Background to this:

1. Since 2016, the National Union of Students (NUS), Students’ Unions and Students’ Associations across the UK have created Trans (and Non-Binary) Officer positions, as separate from LGBT+ Officers, after fighting for years to create a separate Trans Campaign.
2. An informal survey of 29 trans and non-binary students at the University of Edinburgh found that the majority, 65.5%, supported the creation of a Trans and Non-Binary Campaign and Officer. 6.8% were undecided. 75.9% preferred the campaign be called the ‘Trans and Non-Binary Campaign’.
3. Historically, the LGBT+ Campaign and Sabbatical Officers at Edinburgh University Students’ Association has only been represented by one single trans person (that we know of), whose three years as a representative have frequently required a trans person to respond to issues, despite that not being their elective role.
4. According to the Scottish Trans Alliance, “enacting Student Union policies that would be helpful to trans students, and similarly blocking policies that would be harmful, is often impossible if there is no representation of trans people within the university...or the Student Union” (https://www.scottishtrans.org/trans-rights/practice/further-higher-education/trans-inclusion-in-student-unions/)
5. Several NUS conferences, including NUS Trans Conference 2018, have reinforced the need for an autonomous Trans Campaign to exist without ‘removing the T’ from the LGBT+ campaign. This is because:
   a. “1. The LGB+ and Trans communities have a shared history of struggle
   b. 2. The LGB+ and Trans communities have a shared oppression, that based on how gender norms are used to police people’s behaviour.
   c. 3. In it in the interests of both LGB+ and Trans people to continue to organise together” (https://s3-eu-west1.amazonaws.com/nusdigital/document/documents/43321/dc05428793acc1cd52165c956fc733b0/TSC_Live_Policy_201720.pdf , p 23)
6. Trans and non-binary students face issues many LGB student face, but also experience particular (and increasing) violence and oppression based on transphobia which cisgender (non-trans) LGB people

Beliefs and Motivating Actions:

1. Trans and non-binary students face immense barriers to education, employment, services and social life in a way that is unique to them, and which have historically been sidelined by lesbian, gay and bisexual campaigning on other issues such as gay marriage;
2. Transphobia is on the rise in the UK, with increased visibility having the drawback of increased negative attention from transphobic people and groups;
3. The Students’ Association should campaign for marginalized students’ rights and experiences, including people targeted for their gender identity and/or expression;
4. Marginalized groups should be represented by someone who identifies within that group, as is the case for our other Liberation Campaigns, and a cisgender LGBT+ Officer cannot represent trans and non-binary students in the same way as a trans/non-binary person could;