

## OIAWALE AHMAD

*Hear every voice. Build one Wolverhampton.*

My name is Olawale Ahmad. I am 25 years old and currently a second-year student studying Business and Law at the University of Wolverhampton. I am running to be a Students' Union Officer to help contribute to an inclusive university community, one where every student feels heard, supported and included regardless of ethnicity, nationality, disability, age, gender, sexuality or identity.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Students' Union. I believe they have done a strong job supporting student welfare and engagement. My aim is not to replace this work, but to build on it through lived experience and action. Working collaboratively with university staff and fellow Sabbatical Officers, including the Vice President Academic, Vice President Community & Welfare and the SU President, is key to strengthening an already diverse community.

The ideas in this manifesto reflect my personal experiences and conversations with students during my time at Wolverhampton.

When I moved into university accommodation, I lived with roommates from Nepalese, Pakistani, British, Punjabi and Sri Lankan backgrounds. Before coming to Wolverhampton, I mostly interacted with people from my own background. At first, being surrounded by different cultures felt unfamiliar, but it quickly became welcoming

and important for my personal growth. I formed close friendships, learned about different cultures and cuisines, and shared my own culture too. This experience showed me the value of engaging across differences.

Vice President Diversity reflects my personality and passion. Back home in Nigeria, I have always advocated against the exclusion or marginalisation of minorities, including the LGBTQ+ community, smaller tribes and individuals with learning difficulties. I believe in a community where people are respected and supported regardless of difference. This belief is central to why I am running for Vice President Diversity and why representing students from varied backgrounds comes naturally to me.

During my studies, I joined the African Caribbean Society, LGBTQIA+ Society, Law Society and Marketing House Society. I am also an active member of the Nepali student community, and although I do not always understand the language, I have consistently been made to feel included. These experiences show how I have acted as a bridge between student communities. As Vice President Diversity, I would represent diverse student voices in meetings and decision-making spaces, ensuring their experiences are heard and acted upon.

As an extroverted and approachable person, I enjoy attending Students' Union events and engaging with students across the university. Some of my favourite events include Diwali, Nigerian and Nepali celebrations, and global gathering events, which allowed me to connect with students I would not normally meet. As Vice President Diversity, I would help plan cultural awareness campaigns using student feedback and surveys, so events reflect what students genuinely want.

I believe societies based on ethnicity and identity are essential in helping students feel included. However, at a university with such a wide range of backgrounds, regular intercultural events are equally important. These would encourage students to interact beyond their usual circles, improving understanding, communication skills and confidence across communities.

Intercultural events could allow students to share meaningful aspects of their background, such as traditional dishes, dances, stories or cultural practices. These events would also create space to listen to student experiences, discuss challenges, raise EDI concerns and signpost support. Feedback would be discussed within the Students' Union and shared through appropriate university channels to ensure students feel heard.

On 28 October 2025, I attended a Dyslexia Awareness programme at the Luna Lounge supported by the SU Advice Team. This experience was life-changing, as it gave me the

confidence to seek an assessment, leading to a formal diagnosis of dyslexia with additional characteristics of dyspraxia through CF Psychology. Without this programme, I may never have accessed the support I needed. It highlighted how awareness initiatives can remove barriers and create equitable access to support.

As a neurodivergent student, I understand how systems can unintentionally exclude capable individuals. As Vice President Diversity, I am committed to working with the SU Advice Team and the University to expand awareness around neurodivergence and disability, particularly for international students from backgrounds where SEN and disabilities are not openly discussed.

Diversity is not just about representation; it is about action, understanding, and equity. With my lived experience, involvement in the Students' Union and commitment to inclusion, I am ready to serve as Vice President Diversity.

## **IMOLEAYO SARAH FALANA**

*Championing Diversity, Upholding Equity*

### **Championing Diversity, Upholding Equity**

**Fellow students,**

My name is **IMOLEYO SARAH FALANA**, I am a second year BSc Computer science student. Last year, I stood for election because I believe our student community is strongest when *everyone* feels seen, heard, and valued. Although I did not win the election, the experience strengthened my commitment to the principles of diversity, equality, and inclusion.

This year, I am contesting again not because the outcome discouraged me, but because the need for inclusive representation remains just as important.

Diversity is one of our greatest strengths, but it must be actively protected, represented, and empowered.

I am standing for the position of Vice President (Diversity) because I believe that inclusion is not symbolic. It is intentional. It is structural. And it requires leadership that is willing to listen, challenge, and act.

### **My Vision**

As Vice President (Diversity), my vision is to build a campus where every student feels safe, respected, and represented. not just in words, but in practice.

I am committed to creating an environment where diversity is celebrated, equity is prioritised, and student voices are meaningfully included in decision-making processes.

### **My Aims**

**I will work to achieve this vision by:**

#### **1. Championing Student Representation**

I will ensure that the voices of underrepresented and marginalised students are heard, valued, and advocated for at every level of the Student Union.

#### **2. Upholding Equity and Fair Access**

I will advocate for fair policies, accessible services, and inclusive practices that recognise the different challenges students face and work to address them.

#### **3. Creating Safe and Inclusive Spaces**

I will support initiatives and events that foster belonging, encourage dialogue, and allow students to express their identities without fear of discrimination or exclusion.

#### **4. Strengthening Awareness and Education**

I will promote conversations, campaigns, and training that challenge prejudice, encourage allyship, and build a more informed and inclusive student body.

#### **5. Working Through Collaboration**

I will work closely with student societies, liberation groups, university staff, and fellow officers to ensure diversity and inclusion are embedded across all areas of student life.

### **My Commitments to You**

**If elected as Vice President (Diversity), I commit to:**

- **Listening and Advocating:** I will actively listen to student concerns and represent them with confidence and clarity.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** I will communicate openly about my work and remain accountable to the students I serve.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** I will consistently prioritise diversity, equity, and inclusion in all decisions and initiatives.

### **In Conclusion**

Diversity deserves more than acknowledgment, it deserves action.

Equity requires more than intention, it requires commitment.

Together, we can create a university where every student belongs, every voice matters, and every identity is respected.

I would be honoured to have your support.

**Vote IMOLEYO SARAH FALANA for Vice President (Diversity).**

**Thank you.**

## **JASROOP KAUR PALAK**

*"Diversity isn't optional, it's essential. Vote Jas"*

Hi all,

My name is Jasroop Kaur Palak, and I am putting myself forward to be your new Vice president Diversity. I hope that this manifesto allows for you to gain a deeper insight into my aspirations. I'm running for VP Diversity because inclusion should be something students experience every day, not just something written in policies.

I am a confident and passionate public speaker who is deeply committed to standing up for equality, inclusion, and social justice. I strongly believe in advocating for global and

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social issues such as climate change, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, fair pay, and, most importantly to me personally, racial equality.

As a brown Sikh girl growing up in today's society, I have experienced first-hand the challenges that come with racism and prejudice. These experiences have shaped who I am and strengthened my determination to ensure that everyone feels safe, valued, and respected within the university community. I understand the impact discrimination can have on mental well-being, and I want to be a voice for those who may feel unheard.

Throughout this academic year, I have had the privilege of working alongside the Students' Union as a Community Organiser. This experience has equipped me with valuable insight, strengthened my leadership skills, and given me the confidence to take on this role with dedication and purpose. Working closely with diverse communities across the university has allowed me to truly understand their unique challenges, priorities, and aspirations. I have listened, supported, and advocated and through this, I have developed a deep commitment to ensuring every student feels heard, valued, and represented.

I believe that real change begins with listening. Many of you have shared the changes you want to see, and I am committed to turning those conversations into action. My manifesto is built on inclusion, representation, and practical support for every student in our community. These are just a few things I would change:

- I will advocate for the installation of sensory pods across campus to provide safe, quiet spaces for neurodivergent students to regulate and recharge. Creating environments where students feel secure and supported is not optional, it is essential.
- I will push for enhanced language and financial support, alongside increased access to paid on-campus employment opportunities. International students enrich our community, and they deserve fair opportunities to succeed academically and financially.
- I will work to establish dedicated support groups and campaign for the implementation of gender-neutral bathrooms across campus. Every student deserves to feel respected, safe, and represented in their university environment.
- Students who are parents or carers balance significant responsibilities alongside their studies. I will advocate for policies and practical support systems that recognise and accommodate these responsibilities.
- I will introduce paid student representative roles for different communities to ensure that diverse voices are not only heard but empowered within decision-making spaces. Representation must be meaningful, structured, and valued.

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- Accessibility must be embedded from the beginning; not treated as an afterthought. I will champion inclusive designs across campus infrastructure, services, and policies, recognising that not all disabilities are visible and that every student deserves equal access.

Together, we can build a campus where everyone truly belongs.

I want to help create a university community that genuinely reflects its student's, not just in leadership, but in everyday student life. Representation matters, and it must go beyond visibility. Every student deserves to feel seen, valued, and supported, regardless of their background or identity.

If elected, I will advocate for all students; not just the loudest voices. True inclusion means creating spaces where students don't have to explain or justify who they are. It means ensuring that diversity work is consistent, transparent, and accountable to the people it serves.

Diversity means action, not just awareness. Diversity is not about ticking boxes; it's about building structures that ensure every voice is heard, respected, and represented. I am committed to turning student concerns into real, practical change that you can see and feel across campus.

I am committed to making our university a place where diversity is celebrated, voices are heard, and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

“diversity isn't optional, it's essential. Vote for Jas”

### **MILAN PARIYAR**

*Celebrating cultures, breaking barriers, building belonging. Together we rise through respect, representation, and real change. Vote for leadership that stands for everyone, every day, without exception.*

Name: Milan Pariyar

Student No:2420397

Fellow students,

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I am standing for the position of Vice President because I believe in the power of student voices and the strength of our university community. Leadership is not about titles; it is about service, accountability, and action. I am committed to representing you with integrity, transparency, and determination. Together, we can build a campus environment where every student feels heard, supported, and empowered to succeed.

My vision is simple: a university experience that works for every student. Whether you are in your first year adjusting to campus life or preparing to graduate, you deserve opportunities, resources, and representation that reflect your needs. As Vice President, I will serve as a bridge between students and the administration, ensuring that your concerns are not only raised but addressed with meaningful solutions.

First, I will prioritize communication and transparency. Students deserve to know what decisions are being made and how they impact campus life. I will advocate for regular updates, open forums, and accessible feedback channels so that every student has the opportunity to share ideas and express concerns. Leadership must be approachable and accountable. I will ensure that student government remains visible, responsive, and engaged with the community it serves.

Second, I am committed to enhancing student welfare and wellbeing. University life can be challenging academically, socially, and financially. I will push for stronger mental health support, improved access to academic resources, and initiatives that promote balance between studies and personal growth. By collaborating with university departments and student organizations, we can create programs that truly support student success.

Third, I will work to strengthen inclusion and diversity across campus. Our university thrives because of the different backgrounds, perspectives, and cultures that make up our community. Every student should feel respected and valued. I will advocate for inclusive events, equal opportunities, and safe spaces that celebrate diversity while fostering unity. A strong campus is one where everyone belongs.

Fourth, I aim to expand opportunities beyond the classroom. University is not only about lectures and exams; it is about preparing for life and careers. I will support initiatives that promote internships, networking events, skill-building workshops, and partnerships with industry professionals. Students should graduate not only with degrees but with confidence, experience, and connections.

Additionally, I recognize the importance of vibrant campus life. Events, clubs, and societies create the memories that define our university journey. I will collaborate with student leaders to ensure that activities are engaging, inclusive, and reflective of the

interests of the entire student body. By encouraging collaboration and creativity, we can build a stronger sense of community and pride.

Financial transparency and responsible management of student funds will also be a key priority. Students deserve clarity on how resources are allocated. I will advocate for fair distribution of funding to support initiatives that benefit the widest range of students. Accountability builds trust, and trust strengthens leadership.

Most importantly, I promise to listen. Leadership begins with understanding. I will make myself available, approachable, and ready to engage in open dialogue. Your ideas will shape my actions. Your feedback will guide my priorities. Your voice will remain at the center of every decision I make.

This campaign is not about one individual; it is about all of us. It is about creating positive change that lasts beyond one academic year. It is about setting higher standards for representation and ensuring that student leadership reflects the values of respect, responsibility, and collaboration.

Together, we can raise expectations, strengthen our community, and leave our university better than we found it. I am ready to serve with dedication and passion. I ask for your trust, your support, and your vote as we move forward toward a more inclusive, dynamic, and student-focused future.

Let us build that future—together.

If you share your name and specific promises (e.g., transport, accommodation, library hours, sports funding), I can personalize this manifesto directly for your campaign.

**MENHAJ UR RAHMAN**

*Different Voices, One Wolverhampton.*

**VP Diversity Manifesto,**

## University of Wolverhampton

### Introduction

Hi, my name is **Menhaj Ur Rahman**, and I am running for the position of **Vice President Diversity** at the University of Wolverhampton.

I am a Pakistani student currently studying **LLM Conversion leading to Bar at Law**. Coming from an international background, I understand the challenges many students face when adapting to a new country, education system, and culture. Wolverhampton is a diverse university, and I believe that every student deserves to feel represented, supported, and included.

I am standing for VP Diversity because I want to help create realistic and meaningful change that reflects the voices and needs of students.

### My Top 3 Manifesto Objectives

#### 1. Listening to Underrepresented Student Voices

If elected, I will prioritise listening to students from underrepresented backgrounds, including international students, ethnic minorities, and marginalised communities. I will do this by:

- Holding regular drop-in sessions and student forums
- Working closely with cultural societies, liberation networks, and course representatives
- Feeding student feedback directly into Students' Union discussions

Students deserve to be heard and represented.

#### 2. Improving Awareness of Support Services

Many students struggle simply because they are unaware of the support available to them. If elected, I will:

- Promote clear and accessible information about wellbeing, academic, and financial support
- Work with the Students' Union to ensure support information is easy to understand for all students
- Help signpost students to the right services when they need them

Support should be visible, inclusive, and accessible to everyone.

### 3. Promoting Inclusion and Community on Campus

University should feel like a welcoming community for all students. I will:

- Support inclusive events that celebrate different cultures, religions, and identities
- Encourage collaboration between societies to bring students together
- Promote respect, understanding, and allyship across campus

A strong sense of belonging improves the student experience for everyone.

#### My Experience

As a Pakistani student studying **LLM Conversion leading to Bar at Law**, and as a **qualified lawyer from Pakistan**, I have developed strong communication, advocacy, adaptability, and listening skills. My legal background has strengthened my ability to understand complex issues, represent different viewpoints fairly, and speak up confidently on behalf of others.

Engaging with students from diverse backgrounds has deepened my understanding of empathy, representation, and collaboration. These skills will allow me to represent students effectively, challenge inequality constructively, and advocate for positive, achievable change as **VP Diversity**.

I am committed to representing student voices honestly and working towards a more inclusive university experience.

**Vote Menhaj Ur Rahman for VP Diversity because every student deserves to feel heard, supported, and included.**

This campaign is about you. If you'd like to share your experiences or ideas, please get in touch.

**Email:** [M.U.Rahman6@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:M.U.Rahman6@wlv.ac.uk)

**Tiktok:** [https://www.tiktok.com/@i\\_rehmann?r=1&t=ZS-93oSE7o0Zz0](https://www.tiktok.com/@i_rehmann?r=1&t=ZS-93oSE7o0Zz0)

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/ryhman?igsh=MXE1djZkZmleHpxOOQ%3D%&3D&utm\\_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/ryhman?igsh=MXE1djZkZmleHpxOOQ%3D%&3D&utm_source=qr)

**PIASH SARKER**

*Together, we can build a University of Wolverhampton where diversity is not just represented, but genuinely valued, supported and empowered.*

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Name: Piash Sarker

Student ID: 2551701

Programme: MRes in Artificial Intelligence

Position: Vice President Diversity, Wolves Students' Union

### Why I'm Standing

I am standing for Vice President of Diversity because I believe that every student at the University of Wolverhampton—regardless of background, nationality, identity, ability, or life experience—deserves to feel respected, included, and able to succeed.

As an international postgraduate research student from Bangladesh, I understand firsthand the challenges faced by students navigating a new culture, education system, and community. My journey, combined with over 9 years of professional industry experience in software development, AI, and machine learning, has shaped my ability to listen, lead, and advocate effectively for diverse communities.

Wolverhampton is one of the most diverse universities in the UK. Diversity is our strength—but only if it is actively supported. I want to ensure that inclusion is embedded into decision-making, student support, campus culture and everyday student life.

### What I Bring

- Strong representation skills through leadership roles in industry and academia
- Research-driven mindset as an MRes AI student, using evidence to support real change
- Global perspective as an international student from Bangladesh
- Community-building experience through sport, teamwork, and student engagement
- Active involvement in CyberVehiCare, contributing to university research and collaboration
- Ability to connect with students across cultures through football, cricket, table tennis and social activities

I am approachable, collaborative, and committed to listening to students—especially those whose voices are often unheard.

### **My Priorities as VP Diversity**

1. Stronger Representation for Underrepresented Students

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I will be a visible and vocal representative for:

- International and postgraduate students
- Global Majority students
- Disabled students
- LGBTQ+ students
- Mature, commuter, and part-time learners

I will work closely with liberation networks and cultural and faith-based societies to ensure student voices directly influence University and SU decisions.

### 2. Inclusion That Goes Beyond Words

Inclusion should be embedded into everything we do—not treated as a one-off event. I will:

- Champion inclusive teaching, assessment, and learning environments
- Advocate for accessible campus spaces and learning resources
- Work with University staff to improve policies affecting equality and fairness
- Ensure SU spaces feel welcoming and safe for everyone

### 3. Celebrating Culture, Identity and Belonging

I want to see diversity celebrated meaningfully throughout the academic year.

This includes:

- Well-planned cultural, faith and awareness events
- Collaboration between societies to encourage cross-cultural engagement
- Early planning of key global and awareness dates
- Greater visibility for student-led cultural initiatives

### 4. Supporting Students Facing Barriers

Many students face challenges beyond academics—financial pressure, discrimination, isolation or lack of awareness of support services. I will:

- Work closely with the SU Advice team to support students facing equality or accessibility issues
- Improve signposting to wellbeing, financial and academic support
- Advocate for fair treatment and transparency in student processes

### 5. Engaging Students Who Feel Disconnected

Not all students experience campus life in the same way. I will focus on:

- Better engagement with commuter, distance-learning and postgraduate students
- Inclusive events that fit around work, caring responsibilities and research commitments
- Using digital platforms to ensure all students can engage, regardless of location

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### **How I Will Work**

- I will listen first, then act
- I will communicate clearly and regularly with students
- I will work collaboratively with other Sabbatical Officers
- I will use data, feedback and research to support campaigns
- I will always represent students with integrity and respect

### **My Commitment to You**

If elected, I promise to be:

- Approachable – you can talk to me
- Accountable – I will report back on progress
- Inclusive – every voice matters
- Proactive – I will not wait for problems to grow

Your Diversity. Your Voice. Our University.

Let's work together to create a University of Wolverhampton where everyone feels they belong—and where diversity is a foundation for success, not a barrier.

Vote Piash Sarker for Vice President Diversity.

## **PRAJWAL SINGH**

*Diversity is our power. Inclusion is our responsibility. Equity is our future.*

Stand Together. Respect Everyone. Include Everyone.

I am standing for Diversity Vice President because every student should feel welcome, safe, and respected at the University of Wolverhampton.

University should be a place where everyone feels they belong. No one should feel left out because of their race, religion, disability, gender, sexuality, nationality, age, or background. Every student deserves equal opportunities, equal respect, and equal support.

### Why This Role Matters

Our university is proud of its diversity. Students come from different countries, cultures, and communities. This diversity makes our campus stronger and richer.

But we must also be honest some students still face barriers. Some experience discrimination. Some struggle to access support. Some feel their voices are not heard in important decisions.

This role is about making sure diversity is not just talked about, but truly supported. It is about turning student concerns into real action.

### What I Will Work On

#### Safe and Supportive Spaces

- Support liberation networks and student societies.
- Protect safe spaces where students can speak freely.
- Organize open forums so students can share their experiences and ideas.

#### Stop Discrimination and Harassment

- Take a clear stand against racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, and all forms of hate.
- Make reporting systems simple, confidential, and easy to use.
- Push for clear action and better communication when issues are raised.

#### Fair and Inclusive Learning

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- Work with the University to promote inclusive teaching that reflects different backgrounds and perspectives.
- Help reduce achievement gaps between different student groups.
- Make academic support clear, accessible, and easy to understand.

### Better Support for Disabled Students

- Improve communication about disability services and academic adjustments.
- Campaign for accessible classrooms, buildings, and online materials.
- Ensure disabled students are involved in decisions that affect them.

### Support for International Students

- Make information about visas, healthcare, housing, and academic expectations clearer.
- Encourage cultural exchange events to bring home and international students together.
- Make sure international students feel included in leadership and opportunities.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing for All

- Promote mental health awareness across all communities.
- Make support services easier to find and access.
- Encourage a culture where asking for help is normal and respected.

### Respect for Faith and Culture

- Support better prayer and reflection spaces on campus.
- Promote respect for religious and cultural practices.
- Work for affordable, good-quality, and culturally diverse food options.

### Strong Representation

- Represent diverse student voices in meetings with university leaders.
- Work closely with student groups to understand real issues.
- Provide regular updates so students know what progress is being made.
- Make sure student feedback leads to real change.

### How I Will Lead

I will be open, honest, and approachable. I will listen carefully and act responsibly. I will work with students, societies, and university staff to build trust and create solutions.

I believe leadership means standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult. It means treating everyone with respect and making decisions that benefit all students.

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This role is about fairness, equality, and belonging. If you elect me as your Diversity Vice President, I will work every day to make sure every student feels seen, supported, and proud to be part of the University of Wolverhampton.

Together, we can build a university where diversity is celebrated, voices are heard, and everyone has the chance to succeed.

Diversity is our power. Inclusion is our responsibility. Equity is our future.

## **KIOSHA SUKIE**

*Seen. Heard. Represented.*

Feeling included at university shouldn't be a privilege, it should be a given. Every student deserves to feel seen, supported, and represented, no matter who they are or where they come from. Diversity shouldn't be something we only acknowledge at certain times of the year or for certain groups. It should be consistent, visible, and shaped by the voices of students themselves. That is the approach I would bring as your Vice President of Diversity.

I believe diversity work works best when it is personal, honest, and collaborative. It's not about ticking boxes or putting on events for the sake of it. It's about listening, showing up, and making sure students feel like their experiences matter. My goal is to help build a Students' Union where no group feels forgotten, overlooked, or uncomfortable speaking up.

### **Equal visibility and support for all communities**

As VP of Diversity, I want to ensure that students from all backgrounds feel equally valued and supported. This includes LGBT+ students, students of colour, and disabled students. As well as those whose identities may intersect across different experiences. Diversity should never feel selective. All students deserve to feel acknowledged, supported, and represented throughout the academic year, not just during certain awareness months.

I want to work closely with student groups to help create meaningful awareness events, campaigns, and conversations that reflect the real diversity of our campus. My aim is to help manifest an environment where students feel proud of who they are and confident that their identity is respected within the Students' Union.

### **Listening beyond surveys**

While surveys are an important tool, they should not be the only way students are heard. I want to meet directly with diverse student groups and work alongside community representatives so concerns, ideas, and needs can be shared openly and regularly. Having clear points of contact will make communication easier and help ensure student voices lead to real action.

By building strong, ongoing relationships with these groups, I hope to create a culture where students feel comfortable speaking up and confident that their feedback will be taken seriously.

My long-term commitments

### **Strengthening the reporting system**

Currently, reporting systems are mainly handled through the university. As a long-term goal, I would work towards expanding reporting options within the Students' Union itself, allowing students to raise concerns directly with us. This would help build trust, improve transparency, and ensure students feel supported by their Union as well as the university. I understand this will take time and collaboration, and I am committed to working carefully and responsibly to make this possible.

### **Showing up and supporting our communities**

Representation means more than holding a title. As VP of Diversity, I would commit to attending at least 95% of diversity-related events wherever possible. Being present matters — it shows genuine support and helps build trust. I want students to know who their VP of Diversity is and to feel comfortable approaching me with concerns, ideas, or feedback.

### **Building lasting engagement**

My aim is to create long-term, meaningful engagement rather than short-term visibility. Through regular communication, collaboration with student groups, and continued support for student-led initiatives, I want diversity within the Students' Union to feel consistent and embedded, not occasional.

True inclusion is something we build together, over time.

Diversity should be for everyone, all year round. If elected, I promise to listen, to show up, and to work alongside students to help create a Students' Union where everyone feels represented, respected, and supported.

## DEVIKA THAPAR

*United We Stand!*

Hi, my name is **Devika Thapar**, and I am going for the position of **VP Diversity**. Diversity and inclusion is a core value that must be championed by all members of our student union. As a home student, I understand first-hand the experiences which come with being a part of a diverse community. From my experience in the university, work has been put in place to make progressive efforts for the inclusivity, equity and equality of all students, including the **Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)** community. With the satisfaction of students at heart, I believe that by working together, we can create a more inclusive, conducive and welcoming environment for all students at our university.

My manifesto for the role of **Vice President for Diversity** in the Student Union of the **University of Wolverhampton** includes the following commitments:

**REPRESENTATION:** To increase representation and visibility of underrepresented groups (BAME) within the student union and throughout the university.

**ADVOCACY:** To advocate for policies and initiatives that promote equity and inclusion for all students, regardless of their background or identity.

**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:** Develop and implement initiatives to increase the recruitment and retention of BAME students, including scholarships, mentoring programs, and targeted outreach efforts.

**COLLABORATION:** Create a BAME student support network that includes counselling, academic advising and career development services, and collaborate with student groups and organizations to create safe spaces where all students can feel comfortable sharing their experiences and perspectives. Work with the university administration to ensure that diverse perspectives are included in decision-making processes that affect the student body. Work with local communities and organizations to build relationships and partnerships.

**SOCIALIZATION:** Organize events and programs that promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation, to foster a more inclusive and cohesive community at our university.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** Actively listen to student feedback and concerns and take action to address any issues related to diversity and inclusion that are brought to my attention, and create a BAME student-led task force to address specific issues and concerns.

Together, we can create a university community that is truly inclusive, equitable, and welcoming for all students. I urge you to support my candidacy and help me work towards this goal.

### SAID WAKIL

*Be seen. Be heard. Belong.*

Hi, my name is Said Wakil, and I am running to be your next VP Diversity.

Belonging is a quiet but powerful feeling. It is the moment you walk into a room and feel you do not need to explain yourself. It is hearing your name said correctly. Seeing your identity respected. Knowing you can exist fully as you are, without apology.

I believe university should feel like that every day.

Our campus is beautifully diverse. It is a mosaic of cultures, identities, stories, and journeys. Diversity lives in the international student building a life far from home. In the mature student returning with courage. In the commuter balancing work, family, and study. In the disabled student navigating systems that were not designed for them. In every student whose voice has ever felt small in a large institution.

I am running because I want every one of those students to feel seen, valued, and heard — not occasionally, but consistently.

Too many students still feel they must search for belonging instead of naturally feeling it. Some struggle to find the right support. Some feel their identities are only recognised during awareness weeks rather than respected throughout the year. Others feel disconnected from decision-making spaces that affect their daily lives.

I want to help change that — from invisibility to recognition, from isolation to connection.

My top objectives are:

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[www.wolvesunion.org/elections](http://www.wolvesunion.org/elections)

### 1. Make support clearer and easier to access

Support should feel like an open door, not a maze. I will work with the Students' Union and university services to improve communication around support for underrepresented students. This includes clearer signposting, simple guides, and stronger promotion so no student misses help because they did not know it existed.

### 2. Strengthen safe spaces and student representation

Cultural, faith, liberation, and identity-based societies are essential for belonging. I will work closely with these groups to ensure they are supported, listened to, and included in decisions. I will create regular listening sessions so students can share their experiences directly and see real action follow.

### 3. Create opportunities for connection across differences

Diversity should bring people together, not exist in separate spaces. I want to support more cross-cultural events, storytelling spaces, and collaborative activities that help students learn from one another, build empathy, and form meaningful connections.

### 4. Champion accessibility and inclusive environments

Inclusion is not only about identity; it is also about opportunity. I will advocate for improvements in physical accessibility, inclusive learning practices, and awareness of hidden barriers such as financial pressures, caring responsibilities, and mental wellbeing challenges.

### What I bring to the role

Through my experiences in [insert your experience — e.g., being the President of English literary society Pakistan I have developed strong listening, teamwork, and communication skills. These experiences have taught me how important it is to represent others fairly, work collaboratively, and turn feedback into real change. I understand the importance of empathy, accountability, and making sure every voice feels respected.

Most importantly, I am someone who listens first and acts with purpose. I believe leadership is not about speaking the loudest — it is about creating space for others to be heard.

### Why vote for me?

Because I will work to make sure no student feels like a guest in their own university. I will champion a community where differences are celebrated, voices are valued, and belonging is something every student can feel — every single day.

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Different voices create a stronger community.  
Together, we can make sure everyone belongs.

**GABRIEL YIADOM**

NO MANEFESTO PUBLISHED

## HAIDER ZAMAN

*TOGETHER, WE RISE, CELEBRATING EVERY IDENTITY.*

Hy Wolverers Pack, this is **Haider Zaman Chattha**, your **vice-presidential** candidate for **diversity** at the **University of Wolverhampton** Students' Union 2026. I have always been curious to learn about how cultures evolve and intersect. Having grown up in diverse traditions, cultures, and languages, I am familiar with how cultivating these differences can lead to unbreakable bonds. As an international South Asian student at Wolves, I have critically assessed the cultural shifts imposed on us and the ongoing transition we must navigate. Through my connections with multicultural societies at university, particularly with students from **Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and other respected communities**, I have seen the unshuttered urge to celebrate our culture thousands of miles away and to reawaken memories. Therefore, instead of criticizing those in charge of the prestigious office, I have decided to use my experience and leadership skills to eliminate these cultural differences, foster healthy, positive multiculturalism, and create a home-like atmosphere for everyone. A hub where each of us, regardless of our gender, ability, heritage, faith, or story, shines bright and celebrates our roots and turns diversity into an ultimate superpower.

### **My Objectives and Goals for Wolves:**

My detailed discussions with students from all respected communities have helped me craft a manifesto.

### **1-Amplify underrepresented voices with custom support:**

I will upscale the mentorship magic for international and BAME students, connecting you with mentors for visa vibes, academic hacks, and cultural explorations. Driven by my own experience, I will also advocate for more halal hotspots, multi-faith rooms, and culturally specific mental health support. Moreover, I will work with the wolves to increase our BAME representation through additional scholarships and outreach, alongside a student-led diversity task force to bring your ideas into SU policymaking, because I believe true representation begins with you, the students of Wolves.

### **2-Ignite Cross-Cultural Vibes Through Epic Events:**

I will break the isolation with monthly Fusion Fiesta events featuring international gems, such as Eid celebrations with Nepali Dashain dance, Bengali beats, or cultural storytelling nights inspired by Pakistan's rich heritage. I'll establish relationships with Wolverhampton's vibrant communities, such as the thriving Nepali and Bangladeshi societies, one of the best South Asian communities worldwide, for off-campus collaborations on resilient communities and social change. Working with other VPs, we'll design safe zones for conversations about LGBTQ+, disability, and economic inequality, making this place a global party for everyone.

### **3- Crank Up Accountability with Real Talk":**

I will have a 'wolf den' town hall meeting, a buzz survey to gauge anonymous opinions, and a quarterly 'glow up' report to "tune into your equity concerns and fine-tune our initiatives such as our bias-busting training programs." By centering our education on anti-discrimination education and our progress here, we'll attract top-notch talent and keep our union flourishing, never losing a voice in the mix!

### **4- Eliminating Gaps between students and council:**

Councils have exacerbated the gap in communication with students, leaving much-needed developments and improvements in diversity and multiculturalism undone. My idea is to fill the void and be accessible to you at all times. Through my connections with all communities and my understanding of their grievances, I am confident we can consider all suggestions and bring critical issues to the table through regular interactions, leading to robust improvements in the area.

### **5- Advocate for Inclusive Policies and Education:**

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I'll champion policies that promote equity for all, regardless of background, by working with the university to integrate diversity training into curricula and staff development. This includes rolling out workshops on unconscious bias, cultural sensitivity, and inclusive communication, tailored for both students and staff. Drawing on my debating experience, I'll facilitate open forums to discuss and refine these policies, ensuring they address real student needs, such as accessible facilities and fair representation in decision-making, thereby driving innovation and a campus-wide culture of respect.

### **Why Vote for me:**

Vote for me as **VP Diversity** because I truly understand the power of inclusion. Growing up in Pakistan's vibrant mix of ancient cultures and modern life has shaped my passion for uniting people, just as our diverse Wolves campus does. I've built strong connections across **Pakistani, Nepali, Bangladeshi, and all other respected communities**, led debates on global issues at community meetings, and honed leadership skills by organizing events, motivating teams, and bridging gaps. With a massive university network, I'll deliver real change: mentorships, cultural fusion events, inclusive policies, and accountability forums to break barriers and celebrate everyone. Together, we will make Wolverhampton thrive as your vote will spark that.

**“Diversity is not just accepted— It is celebrated.”**