

# INES CROPPER DE ANDRES FOR VPX MANIFESTO

## **About me**

I'm a second year Education student and current HUS Target and Access Officer. A first-gen student from a widening participation background, I'm passionate about representing the diverse and friendly Homerton community that I have been lucky to call my home for the past two years, demonstrating to the University why Homerton continues to be such an incredible place. With no pretensions about the flaws that continue to exacerbate inequalities within college and the wider university (and no qualms about challenging the power hierarchies present!) I'm keen to voice the concerns of Homerton students and push for our right to exist freely within a historically exclusionary environment.

## **Why am I running?**

Having been on the HUS this past year, I'm well aware of how difficult it can feel to communicate with the wider SU. Motions can pass and feel distant, students can feel unrepresented and unheard. Similarly, having to advocate for yourself as a marginalised student can be exhausting, especially when bureaucracy and general Cambridge politics can result in a slow process. Whether fresher or finalist, we all have a right to exist freely as ourselves, and this is where my motivation for VPX lies. Confident, passionate and angry at the commodification of our marginalisation, I want to continue the work I've been doing as Access officer to hold the University accountable; voice Homertonian issues and represent our voices.

## **Previous experience**

- Target and Access Officer | HUS
- Inclusion and Diversity Officer | Oxfam Society
- Vice-President | Homerton Feminist Society
- College Rep | 93% Club
- College Rep | Cambridge Homeless Outreach Program

## **Manifesto**

- **Continue pushing for inclusion in all areas of University life.**
  - Homerton, as the most diverse college, has a responsibility in continuing to pave the way for all minoritised people to feel at home within college and within the wider student body.
  - Vote in motions that continue to support access and representation at university, fight against the marketisation of education and the traditional elitism of Cambridge that prevents changes to structures from taking place (why have we normalised week 5 blues?!)
  - Challenge structures (both college and university) if they go against the needs of Homerton students
  - Whilst the HUS is a constitutionally neutral space, I believe the HUS can remain neutral without censoring information. This is particularly the case for issues regarding the wellbeing of students from historically excluded backgrounds - our existence is not political, it's our life.
  - Underlying every point is a belief and commitment in access, inclusion and our right to exist in these spaces. Access not stopping on offer-holder day, but lived experience and intersecting inequalities shaping the experiences of students within the university.
- **Represent your voice**
  - Build on the work of previous VPXs, campaigning for matters that are important to the Homerton student body: such as the U-Bus, Reclaim the Night, Rename Seeley and the Reading Week. Listening to the needs of students and advocating
  - Use contacts and networks to ensure that Homerton students are truly heard.
  - Improve feedback mechanisms so that I can accurately reflect the demands from students
- **Improve Communication**
  - Improve communication between SU and Homerton, working alongside the HUS Comms Officer to enable key messages to reach students. This can look like meeting notes, simplified outlines of campaigns and creation of posters, infographics and social media posts to reduce the complexity (often needless bureaucracy) of Cambridge politics.
  - Open Inbox Policy! This encourages you to get in contact throughout the year with any issues, ideas for campaigns or questions regarding external affairs. Coordinating and signposting to resources and contacts.
  - Regular updates on external affairs
  - Improve Homerton communication with other JCRs facing similar issues. The Homerton-Girton U-Bus this year is a great example of the power of collaboration. Collaborate with other colleges to pool resources and collate knowledge on how to best meet the needs of students. Recognise where Homerton can improve and adopt imaginative and flexible solutions to key issues for students. With strike action, COVID and pressing crises affecting students university-wide, this dialogic approach is key to promote the wellbeing and inclusion of students
- **Improve student participation in wider SU campaigns.**
  - SU campaigns are only representative if students take part, which often does not occur. Lack of communication and information are barriers and often lead to disenfranchisement. Through bringing external campaigns to Homerton, I aim to make the SU a less distant environment.
- **Support the HUS**
  - Ensure liberation officers feel supported; work closely with the Support Team to ensure that liberation officers can carry out their campaigns and independent projects
  - Use prior experience on the HUS and the contacts with staff established to support incoming officers with the workload.