

Lorena Piedrahita-Lopez, Homerton Union Students

Who am I?

I'm Lorena, a queer Colombian student from South London. I'm here to ensure that Homerton is an inclusive and friendly college for all BME students, where your voices can be heard.

What are my main ideas?

Halal Catering

The Homerton catering is a useful facility because Cambridge students don't have enough hours in the day for work, so having a canteen where you can just buy food rather than cooking is brilliant. However, this facility is yet to be fully inclusive as no halal options are provided, meaning Homerton's Muslim population cannot use it. As BME officer, I will continue to push for Halal options for all meals. Additionally, I want to ensure that the Ramdam accommodations that took place this year continue for next year.

Intersectional BME Spaces

BME students all have different experiences, therefore I want to ensure everyone's voice is heard. I would like to provide safe spaces for queer BME students, women and non-binary BME students, working class BME students and more. This would include drop-in sessions where students from these backgrounds can just get together so that nobody feels isolated as many LGBTQ+, feminist etc spaces tend to be overwhelming white and don't consider the BME experience.

Regular Drop-In Sessions

Cambridge is stressful to navigate, which is why community is so important. Therefore, as BME officer I would like to provide students with regular drop-in sessions. This would include regular drop-in sessions where snacks and drinks are provided, but also art and chill sessions or study and chill sessions. Through this, students can raise any issues they have, meet other BME students or simply just relax from the heavy workload.

Ensuring Students Know What Support They Have

Welfare is one of my key priorities, therefore I want to ensure that BME students know what services they can reach out to. This includes who to contact when you've experienced discrimination but also making students aware of the option to have a BME counsellor, a detail which is often missed when looking at the university counselling service. Often it can be hard to talk about non-white experiences with white counsellors. so I want students to know this is available.