# Voice Zone Report – October 2019

## Course Reps

We currently have 195 Course Reps who were elected in May; these Reps have been invited to join us at in-person Course Rep training, supplemented by our online training process for those unable to attend in person. Training will take place and the rest of our Course Reps will be elected over the coming weeks.

Excitingly, for the first time, UG and PGT students nominating themselves for election will experience a consistent elections process, regardless of their course or level. Following the recommendations from the Course Rep Review and the introduction of an election timeline in 2019/20, the Zone has worked with FASS and the CSO to identify best practice, and to implement this across the University.

This October, students interested in standing for election will complete a digital nomination form, available via the Union website, which their Faculty will then share with their cohort. Voting will be conducted online via Microsoft Forms. We hope that this will increase engagement, and it is a significant success as online voting and a consistent process has been a long-term aim for the Zone.

## Influencing the Union

127 ideas were received for Make Your Change – the cross-campus call for suggestions and vote on the next priority campaign that the AMM resolved to organise. Voting for the top theme takes place w/c 14th October, which will form a campaign led with students throughout the year. Feedback on individual issues from Make Your Change will form the basis of further work for the Zone and wider team.

## Surrey Decides: Liberation Committee

This year, Liberation Reps (student representatives for marginalised groups) are being elected online for the first time under the branding of ‘Surrey Decides: Liberation Committee’ following feedback from last year’s Representatives. 16 students applied as candidates in the election, which followed the same timeline as Make Your Change. In order to promote awareness of liberation issues (drawing on several Voice manifestos this year), all candidates are invited to participate in livestreamed discussions as a more conversational alternative to the Surrey Decides Question Time format.

## Officer Success

Building on Ajay’s introduction of the ‘liberated library’ curated collection last year (for which she is contributing for Black History Month this October), she is launching *Ajay’s Bookclub* to promote diversity in literature.

As mentioned above, Course Rep elections are now standardised (completing a VP manifesto point).

The University have now agreed to a collaborative project to raise the visibility of events celebrating diversity (particularly those led by societies) through a central calendar.

## Campaign platform (coming soon!)

The next major project for the Zone is a Campaign Platform (a VP Voice manifesto point), which will be launched w/c 4th November. The online platform will feature guidance/supporting materials, a campaigns directory, and functionality to apply to the Voice Zone for support. The launch week will be accompanied by events organised by part-time officers and the six Make Your Change campaigns that do not win the popular vote will be invited to help launch the new platform.