

ELRICA DEGIRMEN

FOR EDUCATION OFFICER 2016-2017

**There is no education without the
freedom of speech.**

Without the freedom of speech, we are unable to listen to a full range of opinions or criticise the ones we disagree with. I want to ensure that you have your right to voice your opinions, your dissent, your concerns – to make your own minds up and to think for yourselves.

Student union officers and politicians often make promises that they never fulfil. If elected, I will ensure that the students' union executive team deliver the promises they made to you and call them out if they do not. You are the voice of this university and it is about time the students' union served you, not themselves.

I believe that university is the place where people can come into contact with different ideas, beliefs and principles in a civilised manner. The Students' Union Safe Space Policy patronises you by suggesting that you are incapable of listening to alternative views. I will support your ideas for events where students can discuss and debate a range of viewpoints.

You should not feel judged here for having a different opinion.



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I want you to give the gift of communication to you – an essential skill in life. I believe you should stand up for yourself and not be afraid to do so if you are not satisfied with things.

- With this in mind, I will set up **public speaking workshops** so you are able to assert your opinions confidently and present yourself to the rest of the world.
- I want to **change the culture of campus censorship** that is happening within many universities around the world. I will set up an independent association which would not exclude speakers based on their belief or background. I want to challenge opinions that you disagree with and encourage an environment of open and intellectual discussion.
- I am more than happy to **engage with ideas** that the student body presents to me regardless of whether or not they were welcomed by former executives of the Manchester Students' Union before.

This is not about ME. This is about YOU.

I am the type of person that defends what is right, even if there is a cost to me. I will never back down when the going gets tough, and I am not afraid to accept the criticism given to me. I am just like you, I want a students' union that genuinely represents the interests of all the students, not just the invested few.



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