

**What is your
experience/perception of the civic
agenda?**

**What drew you
to this session?**

**What do
you/your
students want
to change?**

**What experience do you
have trying to make
change in the world off**

The Power and Potential of the Civic Students Union

Community Organiser & Student Movement Lead at Citizens UK

Questions

- How can we inject some justice and realism into the civic agenda?
- How can an SU have an impact off campus?
- How can an SU contribute to unpicking town/gown dynamics?
- How does an SU fit into the civic agenda? (does it?!))

**This is an
argument!**



BuzzFeed News / REPORTING TO YOU BuzzFeed News Quizzes TV & Mov

News • Posted on 31 Oct 2017

This Student Union Called Out Jason Derulo For Not Performing At Its University And "Keeping The £20,000 Fee"

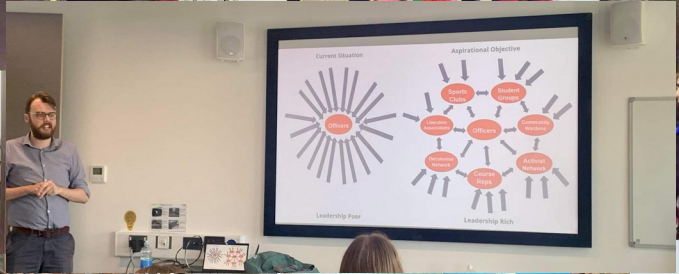
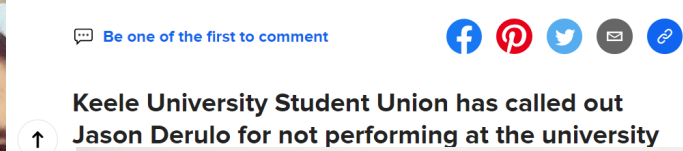
A sabbatical officer said the singer's no-show was a big deal on campus.

by **Victoria Sanusi**
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Be one of the first to comment

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↑ Keele University Student Union has called out Jason Derulo for not performing at the university

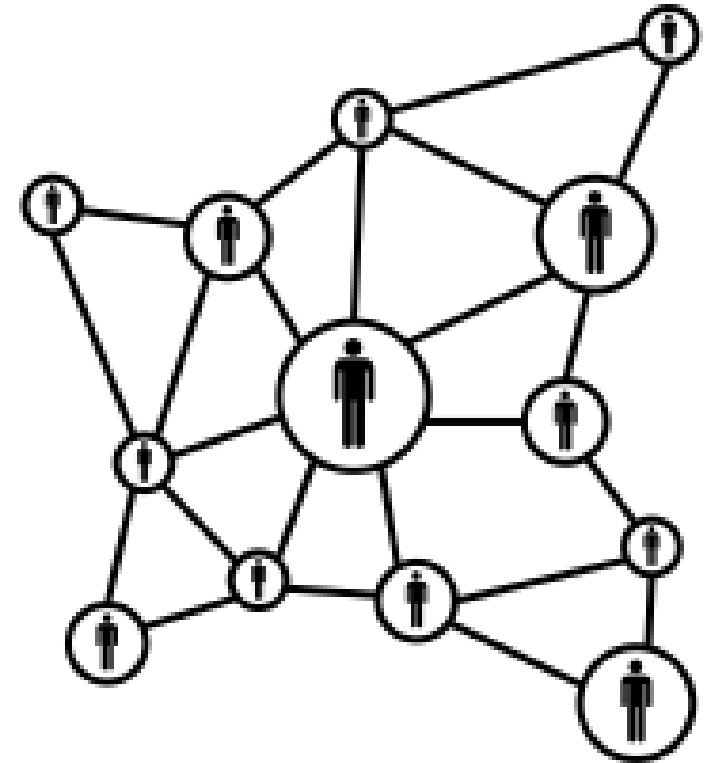




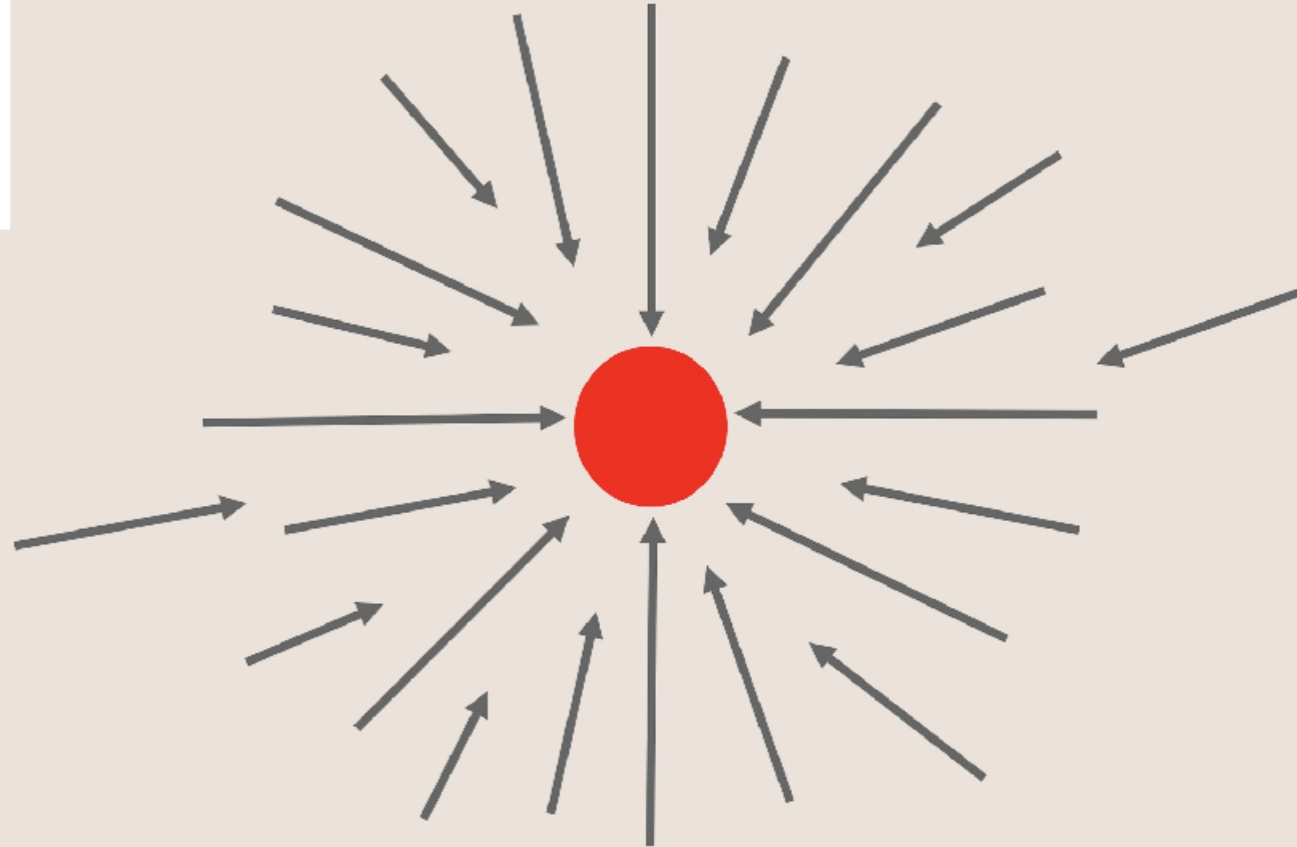
Lone Wolf



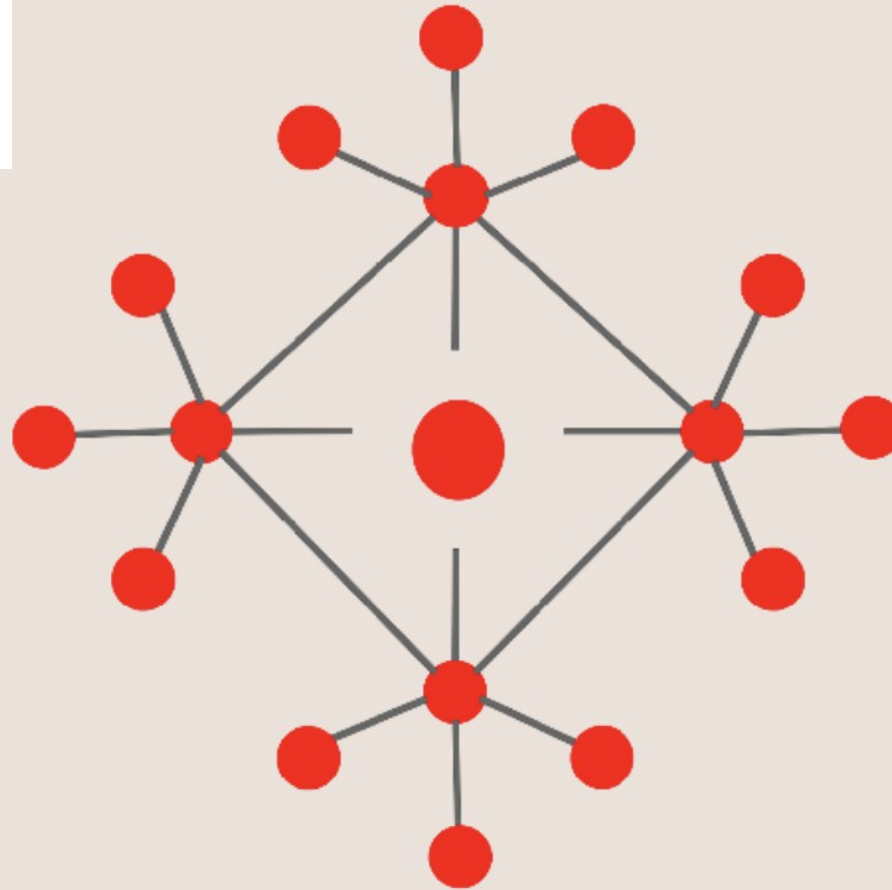
Mobilisers



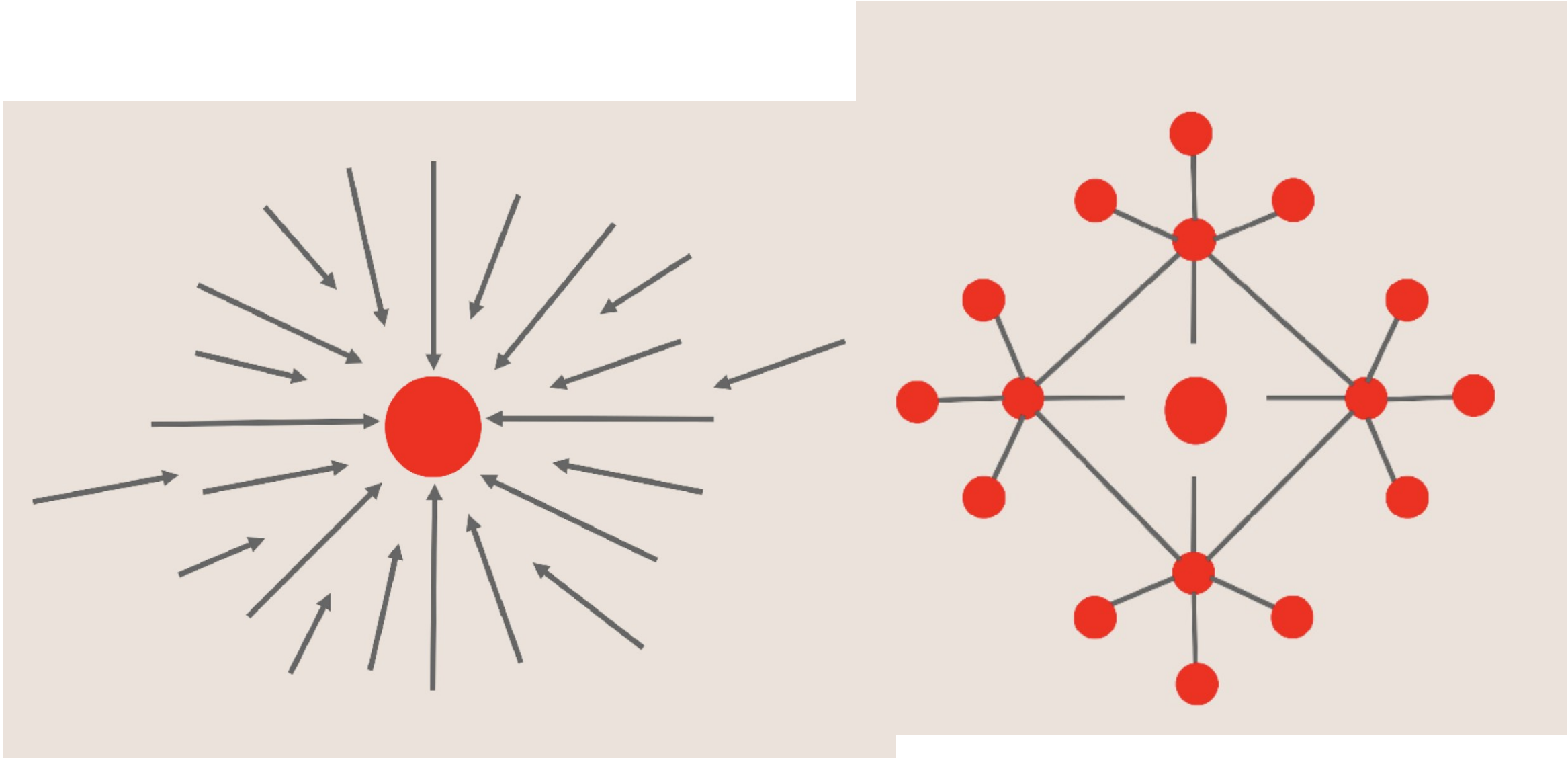
Organisers



Leader Pool, Centralised



Leader Rich, Distributed



Who are we

The national home of Community Organising The UK's Biggest, Most Diverse, and Most Effective People-Powered Alliance

History and evolution:

- Founded in 1989, as a local alliance in East London
- Build on rich heritage of broad-based organising whilst seeking more innovation, working across diverse alliances and networks that span civil society, employers, and the public sector.
- 17 broad-based alliances of civic institutions that are permanent, diverse, dues-paying, multi-issue, and place-based.
- Projects including Living Wage Foundation, PACT, Sponsor Refugees

Mission:

- Through community organising, we build people's power to lead change for the common good, develop community leaders and strengthen civic institutions.



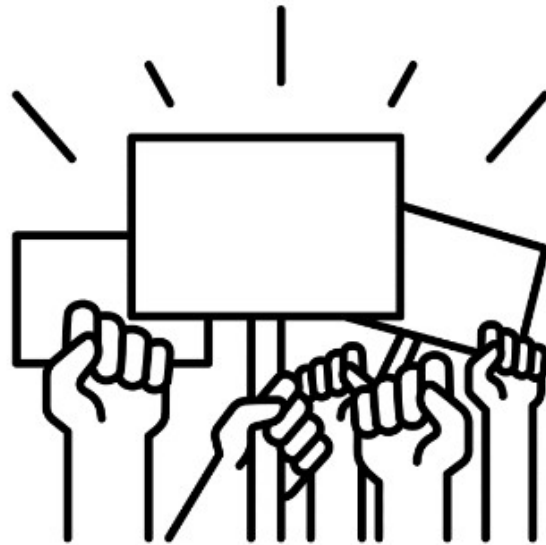
CAN YOU SHARE A STORY OF A TIME WHEN YOU HAVE FELT LIKE THIS?

Power

r

Models of Charity

*Service
Delivery*



Mobilisation

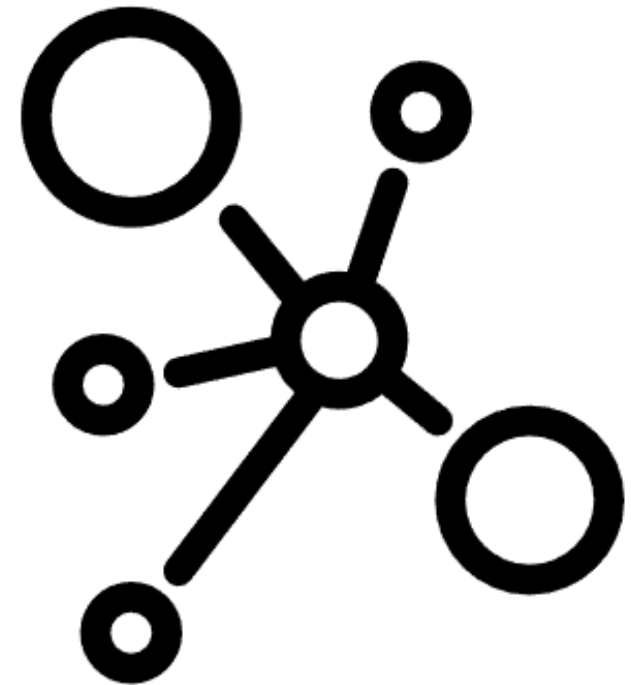
Advocacy



Broad Based

Organising

- *Builds a cross community networks of institutions and leaders - an alliance*
- *'Go Upstream'*
- *Win Lasting Change*



CITIZENS UK TODAY

Brighton & Hove
citizens

citizens
Somerset

LIVERPOOL
CITIZENS

Preston
citizens

citizens^{uk}
Birmingham

East London
citizens
Citizens UK Founding Chapter

North London
citizens

South London
citizens

West London
citizens

citizens
Cymru • Wales

21 Chapters and Projects across the UK



citizens
Essex

Greater Manchester
citizens

Nottingham
citizens

Thames Valley
citizens



citizens
Leicester & Leicestershire

Leeds
citizens

Peterborough
citizens

Tyne & Wear
citizens

citizens^{uk}

Thames Valley Citizens

Milton Keynes (14)

- Church of Christ the Cornerstone
- Congolese Community
- St Monica's Primary School
- MK Academy
- MK Council of Faiths
- MK Deanery
- MK Green Alliance
- MK Quaker Meeting
- Open University
- Q:alliance
- St. Augustine's RC Church
- St. Frideswide's Church
- St. Paul's Catholic School
- Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

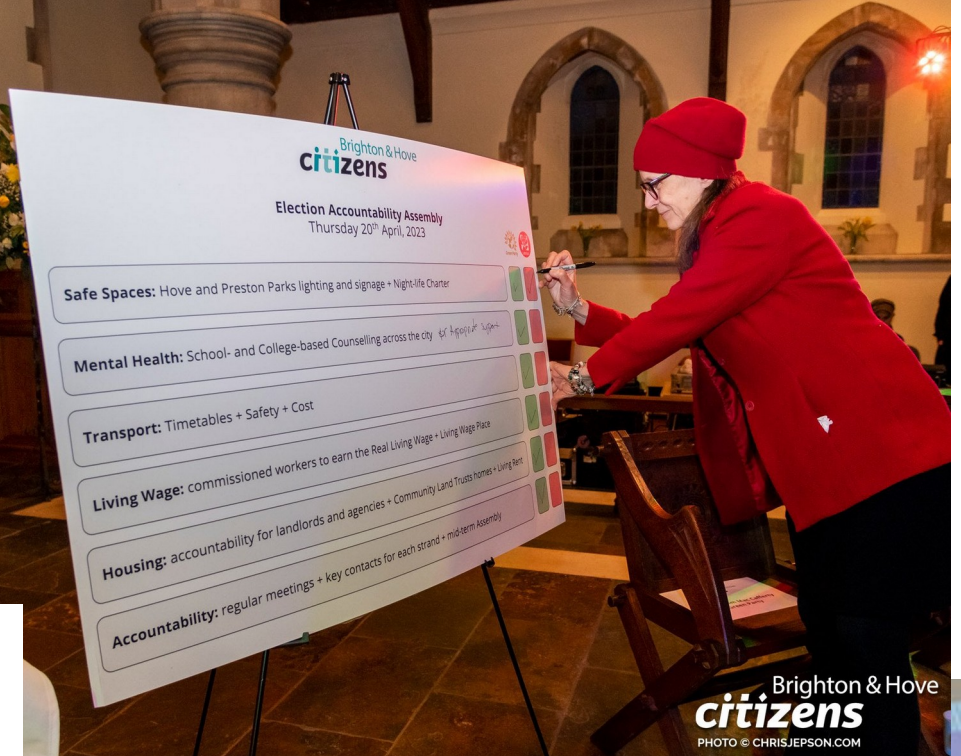
Reading (6)

- University of Reading
- **Reading Student Union**
- ACRE (Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality)
- Reading Refugee Support Group
- Reading Muslim Council
- Reading Deanery

Oxford (5)

- The Oxford Academy
- Oxford Hub
- Oxford Welcomes Refugees
- Syrian Sisters
- EMBS Community College





Brighton & Hove
citizens
PHOTO © CHRISJEPSON.COM

Brighton & Hove
citizens
PHOTO © CHRISJEPSON.COM

**So why should
you care?**

change since 1895

At Aston University, we have a long history of driving innovation and making real change

Nasom Alvi-Assinder
→ Founder, Mapped Aston Programme for Small Business Growth participant

Manny Athwal
→ CEO, Buford of Coding Aston Programme for Small Business Growth participant

Jo Walker
→ Director, England Preacher Up Champs 2022



Getting Started

- Get in the habit of thinking about Power
- Remember the Iron Rule and the Leadership Trap
- Get to know the state of civil society in your local context and build accountable public relationships (Staff as well as students)
- Understand the interests of the various groups and leaders outside the student community - where is there common cause?

Students Unions Community Of Practice

- Network of peer learning and support, supported by Citizens UK
- Exploring taking action across our membership – potentially around the Living Wage or Housing
- Working towards national Community Organising in Higher Education Conference – 24th of January
- **Founding Meeting** – 17th of October
- First meeting, free for those here today (if you give me your details)

Learning More:

Citizens UK:

- Contact your local chapter
- Join our Community of Practice
- National campaigns - even if not in chapter
- We can link you up with SUs who are further along the journey
- tom.snape@citizensuk.org

Self Learning:

- **How To Resist - Matthew Bolton**
- How Organisations Develop Activists - Hahrie Han
- No Shortcuts - Jane McAlevey
- 'The Echo Chamber: Ep 22: Solutions w/ Tom Chigbo'

