



AMMARA AFZAL FOR KPA EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY OFFICER 2020.

Hey everyone,

Vote Ammara to be your KPA EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY OFFICER 2020!

My name is Ammara and I would love to be the students' next KPA Equality and Diversity Officer for 2020. Here are a few paragraphs about myself and what I aim to achieve this year!

Coming from a mixed Asian background myself, I was raised in a multi-cultural society and grew an understanding of people coming from a diverse range of backgrounds. To me diversity is responsible for reinforcing acceptance, understanding and unity of individuals especially during these difficult times where people are lacking social skills due to the pandemic. I find other people's backgrounds interesting and I believe different communities should enrich us rather than divide us...

I grew up in a Muslim household and practice my religion to the best of my ability and am always eager to learn more. Further to this, my friendship group is made up of people from a diverse range of religions, ethnicities, ages and circumstances. In saying this, I have gained a wide perspective of variety within society, and how at times individuals can feel isolated from others in our own different ways. As your equality officer, I want to be there for support and to bring together students and staff into better understanding through amazing projects to increase the mindset of individuals in general life as well as university. I also have great insights academically, particularly within the structure of social interactions, understanding diversity and equality of opportunities, behaviours and treatments of others in situations as well as prejudice behaviour, stigma and stereo types and how to overcome these. I hope to apply this knowledge in the Keele community. Key causes I wish to consider focus on are: Religion, Age, Gender, Race, Religion, Disability, Pregnancy/Maternity, and Sexual Orientation.

No matter what background you come from, whether rich, poor, religious, nonbelieving, man, woman, black, white, brown or sexual orientation, we are all the same. Physically, emotionally and mentally, we are all equal. We share the basic needs of safety, love, food and shelter and aspire to be happy and successful in life, hence why we are all at university. We all have hopes, worries, fears and dreams, and on this fundamental level, religion,

ethnicity, culture, and language make no difference. I want to ensure the current students of Keele University understand unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation present within university and to establish a campus free from prejudice! Keele University can improve its support for minority groups, and I am here to allow voices to be heard in raising awareness and allowing equal opportunities for everyone.

I hope my manifesto explains the goals I hope to achieve that will allow the university to become a more diverse campus, to be proud of and to represent as many students as possible, because diversity is something to be celebrated!

Going into my master's study at university, I want to ensure current and future students are benefitted from the resources and support available at university and to ensure people are able to feel comfortable in their surroundings. I believe I would enhance this if I was elected in this position as outlined in my manifesto:

There are **8 protected causes** I hope to champion as your Equality and Diversity officer this year: Religion, Age, Gender, Race, Religion, Disability, Pregnancy/Maternity, Sexual Orientation. They are as follows:

- To initiate a number of campaigns involving issues of equality: promoting things such as black history month, facts and figures, anti-bullying week awareness and spreading awareness of BAME related concerns throughout the SU.
- Working alongside societies of the Keele SU which represent minority groups including LGBTQ+, Pregnancy, Age, Gender and Disability communities and to raise awareness and celebrate with them in days such as International Men's day, Women's History month, International day for the elimination of racism and the International day of disabled persons to name a few.
- Always being an approachable and accessible point of contact / peer mentor for all students and those interested in spreading awareness.
- Holding an equality and diversity week centered around all students and working with campaign officers throughout the year to allow this to happen.
- To enhance the communication between the student's union and the University's equality and diversity department to ensure that students' equal rights are represented in all areas of their university life.
- I will do my best to make services more available for those needed in support for example by investing more time in new ideas where students can access help from non-judgemental trained volunteers who will provide support to anyone in need of help whether minor or major e.g. bullying, financial difficulty, stress, zero-tolerance policy.
- Supporting and empowering diverse and underrepresented student groups including the physically challenged, LGBTQ+, religious and BAME students by keeping up with statistics and facts within university and maintaining the well-being of these students.
- Constantly review and update any resources and materials taking on board any criticisms!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!