

LSE STUDENTS' UNION

Autumn Term 2025/26

Updated Executive Report



In line with the Accountability Board's decision, this report has been revised and updated to include specific, impact-focussed sections on both divestment and cost of living.

These are followed by full individual updates from Sabbatical Officers and Part Time Officers.

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1. DIVESTMENT



- **Built working relationships with members of LSESU Divestment Working Group.**

Impact: Produced productive space for SJP, JAZ, and SU Officers to focus on divestment strategy and efforts for 2025–2026

- **Urged and worked with LSE senior staff to lobby the UK Government to provide safe passage for 40 students from Gaza to LSE & supportive transition measures.**

Impact: Ensured that Palestinian students could come to LSE safely and be supported in their transition.

- **Produced a petition and triggered a referendum on LSESU's affiliation with NUS UK.**

Impact: Pressuring NUS UK to speak up on the genocide in Palestine and help student unions lobby for institutional and national divestment from arms & weaponry.

- **Supported and resourced SJP in triggering a referendum to reinstate the lapsed LSESU Divestment Policy.**

Impact: Maintaining SU resources for divestment work. In line with student sentiment of our July 2025 referendum, which recognised genocide in Palestine.

- **Co-wrote and signed joint letters to the government and universities from UK Sabbatical Officers, e.g., demanding that Usama Ghanem's student status at King's College London be reinstated, e.g., Solidarity with Birzeit University students.**

Impact: Mobilising to defend free speech and safety in universities.

2. COST OF LIVING UPDATES



- Secured a major expansion of the annual LSESU Hardship Fund to £150,000 from £58,000 to support even more students through financial hardship.

- Working on securing funding as part of the Participation Fund for students to attend Summer Ball.
- Advocated for the Hardship Fund criteria threshold to be protected for our international students.
- Cost of Living Campaign: collected student data, pushed for more affordable campus food options, explored partnerships with 93% Club to support lower-income students, and securing expansion of the guarantor scheme to widen access to safe housing.

3. UPDATES FROM SABBS AND PTOs



General Secretary

- **Black student experience**

This year I have chaired the LSESU Black Student Experience Working Group. This group meet monthly and includes LSE staff and LSESU Staff, coming together to strategies on how to best support Black students. This group has successfully created recommendations for LSE on how to improve the experience of black students at LSE.

We are now working together to carry out these recommendations. These recommendations include creating more bespoke Welcome Week experience and induction for black students, ensuring LSE and LSESU resources are more accessible for black students, closing the awarding gap and ensuring academic staff and departments are trained specifically in EDI. Through this work we aim to improve black student satisfaction, decrease the black student awarding gap and ensure all LSE students have equitable experiences and outcomes.

- **Green space on campus**

I have begun working with LSE Estates on increasing the greenery on our campus. We have now mapped out spaces for increasing planting and green social space on the campus. This will increase the biodiversity on campus and improve mental health and wellbeing of students on campus.

- **LSESU Students' Rights Guide**

I am currently creating the LSESU Students' Rights Guide. This will be a comprehensive and accessible guide for all LSE students to find out more about their rights on key issues such as protest, renters, academic etc. This will be launched in the Winter Term! This guide will be a key student resource to protect and equip LSE students with a wide range of knowledge on their rights.

- **LSESU Executive Committee 2025**

This year our LSESU Executive Committee has met monthly to continue to organise campaigns led by our Sabbatical and Part-time Officers. So far we have planned campaigns around key student issues such as Divestment and student political mobilisation. As our representative student leaders this work will shape our LSESU Campaigns and political direction ensuring we are truly student led.

- **Black History Month 2025**

This year's Black History Month was the best yet! It was great to see so many of you attend our events from the zine making, to the exhibition trips! A massive shout out to our SU campaigns team. If you are a black student and you would like to send us any feedback on this BHM 2025, please email me as we are keen to improve this for next year. We aim to ensure black students are not just celebrated in October but ensuring that inclusive events and spaces are created throughout the academic year.

- **LSESU Hardship Fund**

This term I have worked with our SU Student Voice Team to increase our LSESU Hardship Fund. I am so happy that we can now support even more students through financial hardship.

Things students should know about your area

In the Winter Term I will be organising black student focus groups to create a space for black students to inform the SU on how we can best support you and improve your experience at LSE. If you would like to attend please email me! We will begin promoting this shortly. More information on this can be found in the Cost of Living section of the Executive Report.

This term, I worked closely with the Student Voice Team to secure a major and long-overdue expansion of the LSESU Hardship Fund. Previously, the Fund was set at £58,000, and although LSE did provide top-up payments when we asked, these were never guaranteed. This left both the SU and students uncertain about whether enough support would be available each year. After sustained summer negotiations, we have now secured a stable annual agreement of £150,000 plus inflation, ensuring reliable and predictable support going forward.

This increase is especially important as rising rents, cost-of-living pressures, and growing financial insecurity mean more students, particularly international and postgraduate students, need assistance during their studies. A guaranteed, inflation-linked fund allows us to respond quickly and fairly without relying on emergency requests.

All eligibility guidance and application information is available [here](#).



Activities and Communities Officer

Things I've Worked On This Term

- **Community Spaces on Campus**

I have worked with both Student Union colleagues and different Student Leaders to firstly audit and assess what community spaces we have on campus, and then create action plans to improve so they are in line with what different student groups such as our Media groups require. This has been incredibly successful, and there are currently plans in place for equipment to be replaced and for better use of the Media Centre and its different booths. This will impact students from Societies and those who use recreational spaces on campus, through better access to equipment and spaces for communities to meet.

- **Student Welfare in Sports Clubs & Societies**

Working with the Student Communities and Student Leaders more widely, plans are currently in place to mandate a new role in all Sports Clubs and Societies committees, through a new role of a 'Wellbeing and Inclusion Officer'. This role is designed to create a positive, inclusive culture within student groups, and further ensure that wellbeing concerns are appropriately dealt with. This will ensure there are people in all student groups who are able to signpost and offer support to students, promote Wellbeing & Inclusion as a responsibility of everyone, and ensure an uptake SU & LSE reporting mechanisms. If passed, this will impact over 6500+ students from 300+ Sports Clubs and Societies, through being able to get support from someone who represents the Club or Society you are a part of.

- **Divestment**

Working with Sabbatical Officers & Student Leaders, we have developed a plan for how we will work on the divestment campaign, including working with campaigners, power mapping,

lobbying, education and strategic mobilisation. We currently have a live petition calling for divestment.

- **Student Union Fund**

Working with the Student Communities team, as Chair of the Student Union Fund (an annual grant from LSE for sports clubs, societies, and participation), I have so far awarded a total of £126,597.92. Applications remain open for this fund throughout the year, and I'd highly encourage anyone with an idea to apply! This will impact our 48 Sports Clubs alongside the 50 societies who received an award this term, which their members will see through events, projects and community engagement initiatives ran by the committee using the funds!

Wins From This Term

- **RAG Vintage Shop**

After discussions with the Director of Estates and the RAG (Raising & Giving) Committee, we came to the conclusion that the RAG Vintage/Charity Shop on Portugal Street was no longer fit for purpose. Working with the RAG committee on what their dream shop would look like, and the estates team in terms of how the building can be best used, I have successfully secured an agreement from LSE Estates Division to renovate the shop, with £50,000 secured to fund this project. This will impact students firstly through securing this space, as it is now moving from being used on a temporary basis to a permanent one, but further will ensure that we are giving students the best opportunities for volunteering through the use of a flagship retail outlet.

- **Sports & Society Spotlight Series**

In order to increase awareness of our fantastic Sports Clubs and Societies, we have launched a new series called Sports & Society Spotlight, with the first episode going live in November for a Sport Spotlight on the Hockey Club! This will impact students both for the Clubs & Societies in gaining more members, but further for all students to see the amazing work our Clubs and Societies are doing, and how they can get involved.

- **Summer Ball**

I have been working with the General Secretary, LSESU Staff Team and LSE and we have had confirmation that the 2026 Summer Ball will be going ahead! I sit on the Operations Group for the Summer Ball, and as such have been ensuring that student voice is remaining at the heart of the planning, to ensure we are learning from last year and continuing to create a great experience for everyone! This will impact students as I am fighting to ensure that the Summer Ball remains open to all students, and as such I am working with senior LSE colleagues on securing additional funding for those who cannot afford the cost of the ticket.

Things Students Should Know About Your Area

- **Additional Student Members' Meeting**

I have called an Additional Student Members' Meeting which will take place in Mid-January during Welcome Back. The aim of this is to engage students on Democracy, and discuss a potential change of the Bye-Laws in order to create the role of Wellbeing and Inclusion Officer as a requirement for all Sports Clubs and Societies. Other than this proposal, we don't have a key topic in mind yet, and so do reach out to discuss what the Union should facilitate space for.

- **Protest Rights & Free Speech**

I am currently in the process of creating a Protest Rights Guide, working with the LSESU Student Voice Team to ensure we have clear information about your rights to protest on campus. Additionally, we are looking to run Protest Rights Workshops and Free Speech in the Classroom workshops. This will impact students who protest and speak out on campus, as they will be equipped with the knowledge and information to know how to protest safely and protest within the law. Do reach out if you are keen on getting involved with this project!



Education Officer

Things you've worked on this term

- **Launching the first LSESU Education Officer Monthly blog**

Impact: Ensure that students remain informed on wins, opportunities and wider updates from the school and the work I do in the SU. This provides students with opportunities to get involved in important projects that matter most to them.

- **Facilitated the Academic integrity awareness week with LSE SSC with the Presence of our Advice Service**

Impact: Students are better informed about common mistakes or misinformation about complex assessment rules. Students are aware of the support they can receive from the LSESU Advice Service.

- **Leveraged connections with the Education for Sustainability division to promote internships and opportunities in sustainability at LSE**

Impact: More accessible coverage for high-demand academic & career development opportunities at the doorstep of students!

- **Working with the LSE LIFE to design departmental workshops on 'AI-tools literacy'**

Impact: With the rise of complexity and confusion around the use of AI in their Department, these workshops will equip students with guidance and skills they need when using AI, and how they may use it to prompt critical thinking in their specific programme.

- **The 'AI Fluency: Framework & Foundations' Moodle course is up and running**

Impact: This online course teaches students how to understand the capabilities of AI systems (like anthropic) and limitations and apply them ethically across various disciplines.

- **The 'Assessment Regulations and Student Support Hub' the one-stop-shop is also up and running**

Impact: Information online about LSE's assessments regulations and guidance can be very confusion and 'all over the place' so this new page contains all key requirements for students to successfully complete their studies at LSE, including how the school can support them.

- **Kickstarted our Divestment working group!**

Impact: Detailed in exec team report

- **Kickstarted the 'Tackling Departmental Disparity' project (will be in full swing next term)**

Wins from this term:

- **Pressed for LSE administration to ensure that Management students don't sit on floors in their lectures and classrooms**

Impact: The issue has been successfully resolved, and you can get back to focusing on your learning!

- **UKRI proposal launch: In collaboration with Imperial and UCL and others, the Education Officer along with the PGT and PGR reps are campaigning to address the stagnant London weighting on PhD stipends**

The London weighting for UKRI-funded PhD students hasn't been updated since 1994, despite the massive increase in rent, transport, and general living costs in London over the last 30 years.

Impact: UKRI has now received it. It has gone to the UKRI press office and the strategy advisor they directed us to. We have confirmed interest from Times HE, Research Professional News and WonkHE. Further contact from The London Tab to come.

- **Advocated for the Hardship fund LSESU criteria threshold is protected for our international students, and that the increased fund amount is also protected**

Impact: Students can continue to access the hardship fund with the same criteria.

(Sneaky win to look forward to...a new integrated master's programme underway with a dual certificate awarding)

Priorities for Next Term

- **Tackling Departmental Disparity project will be in full swing next term!**

Impact: Pressure LSE to enhance student's social and academic experience in under resourced departments & ensure this is informed by student voice.

- **Working with LSE LIFE to relaunch the Changemakers programme.**

Impact: Provides high-demand research opportunities & opportunities co-create actions with relevant stakeholders

- **I have been made a board member on the Intranet Project Portal board and planning on including student voice into the designing of the new App.**

Impact: Making the digital navigation and receiving information seamless & simple by developing a new app – you don't want to be bombarded by 100 emails!

- **Plans for Referendum on NUS disaffiliation (Detailed in Exec team report)**



Welfare and Liberation Officer

- **Organised a Student Parents Focus Group**

Impact: This focus group brought together student parents, building a sense of belonging amongst a minority group. There were significant learnings from this group that are informing my work on the LSESU Student Parent Policy; how to run and promote events that suit the needs of Student Parents, the level of awareness of Student Parents about the support available to them, the impact of LSE's lack of targeted support for Student Parents and more. These learnings have been taken forward into my advocacy and community building in WT.

- **Facilitated a Student Consultation for LSE's University Mental Health Charter application**

Impact: Helping LSE to apply for the University Mental Health Charter meant I could shape the topics of discussion to ensure the experiences of LSE students are fully understood and the wellbeing problems at LSE recognised. In facilitating this Student Consultation I helped collect insights that LSE staff will have to address and plan to resolve in its Charter assessment; particularly, the lack of a clear pathway to seeking wellbeing support, the common mental health stigma amongst International Students and lack of a visible space for Wellbeing support on campus. LSE will be reassessed for this Charter every few years, so even after I leave, LSE will be expected to continue delivering on these resolutions.

- **Consulted LSE SMC and Departmental Managers on consent practices in academic departments**

Impact: Consulting LSE SMC and Departmental Managers on these practices was a central first step towards proposing improvements to the practices of Academic Department. I learned about the varying degrees of support offered between departments which informed my strategy of catering my proposal to each department rather than making a blanket proposal. I also learned about the timeline of departmental work on consent which informed my strategy of making proposals in WT in order to distinguish my proposals from Consent.ed.

- **Produced petition for a referendum on LSESU's affiliation with NUS UK**

Impact: Producing this petition meant that my concerns about NUS UK, as well as those of much of the LSE student community, could be addressed democratically and have tangible outcomes of disaffiliating or not disaffiliating.

- **Consulting on LSE Divestment and building relationship with members of the Divestment Working Group**

Impact: From being largely unaware of the details of institutional divestment at LSE, I am now well-read on the topic, allowing me to advocate for divestment in key meetings like the Investment and Endowments AGM. Building a relationship with members of the Divestment

Working Group has meant I can now contribute to their campaigns and goals, for example, joining protests and collaborating on referenda campaigns.

- **Ran Welcome Fair stall getting students to make pledges to be part of consent culture of LSE**

Impact: This stall helped set a cultural precedent amongst incoming LSE students of zero tolerance for sexual assault and harassment. I also had meaningful discussions with students interested in consent culture advocacy and was able to invite them to future campaigning opportunities.

- **Helping Liberation Societies gain easier access to the Hall Carpenter Room - The Hall Carpenter Room is a community space (Third Floor, Saw Swee Hock) displaying features from the Hall Carpenter archives of previous campaigns at LSE (e.g. Gay Liberation Front)**

Impact: Getting more access to the Hall Carpenter room for Liberation Societies means they can learn about historical campaigns that relate to the struggles of their community and be inspired to make more change. It is also important for the sense of belonging of minority groups to have safe spaces that are set up with them in mind.

- **Successfully pressured LSE to get more staff to complete 'Sexual Harassment and Misconduct' training, through the LSE Harassment and Safeguarding Forum**

Impact: This meant that more staff at LSE completed training, boosting their understanding of how to support and protect LSE students and maintain appropriate and professional boundaries with students.

- **Set up Liberation Sub-committee of the Executive Committee (all LSESU sabbatical officers and part-time officers)**

Impact: This committee was used in AT in response to requests from continuing PTOs for a more informal space for officers to discuss their work and give updates. This subcommittee met twice – one to aid PTOs in mapping out the societies they wish to network with and the other to prepare for AT Town Hall and receive updates on divestment work.

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Ethics and Sustainability Officer

Sustainable Operations

- **Biodegradable Cleaning Products**

I initiated contact with Mary Lee (Senior Facilities Manager) to assess the ecological certifications of current cleaning products across campus and explore greener alternatives. This work has laid the groundwork for procurement changes in future terms.

- **Food Waste – Winnow System**

I reached out to Ana Martinez Badia (Sustainable Catering Lead) to explore expanding the Winnow AI food waste tracking system – currently piloted successfully at Bankside House – to our other catered halls (Carr-Saunders, Passfield, and Rosebery). The Catering team has identified cost feasibility as a barrier to rollout at this stage; I am continuing to explore how this can be progressed.

Student Sustainability Leadership Network

I established the Student Sustainability Leadership Network this term, creating a monthly forum for SU representatives and sustainability societies to coordinate on campus environmental action. Terms of reference were finalised in September, and the network has seen strong early engagement from student groups.

Waste Disposal Education Campaign

I began conversations with Beatrice and Lydia to develop a waste disposal education campaign in partnership with the communications team, responding to widespread incorrect waste classification on campus. Planning will continue into next term.

Collaboration with Global School of Sustainability

I opened discussions with Harriet Carter (School Manager of GSoS and Institute Manager of GRI) to explore partnership opportunities between the SU and the new Global School of Sustainability.

Divestment & Ethical Investment

I attended divestment campaign meetings with SJP this term, contributing to collective student advocacy for ethical investment reform at LSE. I will continue to support and coordinate with fellow officers and student groups on this campaign going forward.



International Students' Officer

Hello everyone! Last term was... a lot for me. I'm so sorry that it impacted my role in the SU and I thank you, the LSE student body, for your patience and kindness as I found my bearings again. There is a lot to look forward to this term and I can't wait to get started! For the next few months, I will be focusing on career support and cultural exchange.

What to look forward to

- **SU ISO Drop-In sessions**

The SU and I are working to find a weekly slot for you to find me in the SU and discuss any problem you may be facing or are aware of as an international student.

Impact: this will help me get to know you better, hear your concerns directly and allow me to shape my forthcoming event plans as ISO accordingly. You can also drop by if you just want to have a chat or get to know me as well. I can't wait to get to know you all!

- **Career/visa support sessions**

I will be putting together some crash course visa workshops with the LSE Careers service to help you all manage the legalities of being an international student.

Impact: this will help general course/LSE students figure out how to have part-time jobs and summer internships while complying with visa regulations. Equally, it will clear up how a graduate visa works for international students and the opportunities it provides.

- **Lunar New Year celebrations***

This will be a cute and cosy cultural exchange workshop between South-East Asian societies to share traditions practised in the Lunar New Year Period, whether it be 春节 (Chinese Lunar New Year), Tết (Vietnamese Lunar New Year) and more!

Impact: with this, I hope to ease the homesickness our vast South East Asian student body feels around this festive time period and help them feel at home at LSE. Equally, I hope to promote the discovery of Lunar New Year for students of all cultures beyond what is classically known as "Chinese New Year".

**Please note that this holiday was selected based on conversations with several South East Asian students and representatives of South East Asian cultural societies, in addition to my own experiences with (and homesickness for) the holiday itself. I am beyond open to the many unique celebrations practised by the broader student body and I am looking forward to hearing your ideas in the up-coming ISO Drop-In sessions!*

Reminder: You can contact me on my LSE email (a.kavaliauskaite@lse.ac.uk) and on my ISO Instagram through dm (@adele.iso). Please bring forth your ideas, queries or concerns and I will be happy to help as best as I can or connect you with relevant resources!

LGBTQ+ Officer

- **Launched the first LGBTQ+ Self Defence Class with LSESU Sports and Bender Defenders (an LGBTQ+ Self Defence Company)**

In a period of rising hostility to queer people internationally students should know how to protect themselves. This event had good turnout and participants felt the event was useful.

- **Launched the Chosen Family Initiative, an LGBTQ+ mentorship scheme for students, working with the APP team**

Students had communicated difficulty in navigating LSE and this pilot programme is an attempt to ameliorate this. Five student families were created and meetings will be held in WT to check in with the families.

- **Launched TransFormation: an SU campaign regarding LSE's response to the 'For Women Scotland v Scottish Ministers' Supreme Court case**

This has involved codifying lobbying for the increase in gender neutral facilities on campus within LSESU policy This has also involved working with the LGBTQ+ Society on creating a gender-neutral map (still to be completed). TransFormation has also played a role in increasing the number of student participants who engaged with LSE EDI's Listening and Engagement exercise.

- **Begun work to expand the LGBTQ+ Gym Hour by providing at least one session per term**

Students had commented on lack of acceptance within sports spaces and this project was launched in response to this. It has had decent turnout since its inception.

- **Begun work to explore the expansion of the Gender Expression Fund, after its launch last year**

This will be continued into the WT.

- **Engaged with LSESU SJP in the Divestment Working Group to further the campaign for divestment at LSE**

Further information on this can be found in the Divestment section of the Executive Committee Report.

- **Held Trans Day of Remembrance with the LGBTQ+ Society and other universities such as KCL and UCL**

In a time of rising hostility and LSE's normalisation of TERFism on campus, students taking space to acknowledge the inherent violence of transphobia is necessary. The vigil was well attended.



Neurodiversity and Disability Officer

Things I've worked on this term

- Setting up a society for Neurodivergent & Disabled students!
- Finishing up my 'Does LSE Disable Its Students?' research review project
- Upholding our mandate to campaign for divestment


Wins from this term

- Many sign-ups of students wanting to get involved in the Neurodiversity & Disability Society!
- Sharing 'Does LSE Disable Its Students?' draft with experts across LSE and getting promising feedback
- Pushed Sabbatical officers to get on board with the Council petition for divestment (written and led by Ardour!), making it an official SU Executive
- Committee petition!

Things students should know about your area

- The first adjustment-designated policy at LSE! Have a read of the Policy on Reasonable Adjustments for Disabled Students.

Priorities for next term

- Share my 'Does LSE Disable It's Students?' review with you and the rest of the LSE community!
 - Continue to champion your voice inside and outside the Students' Union.
 - Pushing Sabbatical officers to see through their Divestment Plan.
- 

Women's Officer

Things you've worked on this term

- Started The Period Petition to demonstrate the high level of demand for LSE to provide free period products in on-campus toilets. So far this is on 232 signatures and counting! There is a growing sense of hope amongst the women+ of LSE as a result of this. Many students have reached out to thank me, which feels like a sign that they are feeling seen and represented.
- Organised a fun painting event to invite students to sign the petition and create some meaningful collective art, which garnered another 50+ signatures and spread awareness of the campaign.
- Assembled a team of 40 volunteers at LSE to help with the period products campaign. Students in this group have suggested their own initiatives, including a campaign video which is currently being finalised, and some early planning for physical action. This has allowed students to get directly involved and this collaboration has brought more momentum to the campaign.
- Created a supportive network of women's clubs/societies on Instagram; a channel where these groups can share news, events and updates and I can reshare initiatives. These clubs/societies often share their events in this group, and we all help each other out by re-sharing on our respective platforms/community group chats! I believe this has had an impact on the reach of these clubs/socs, evidenced by the continued engagement.

- Began planning for the Women's Gala 2026! I now have a confirmed date and venue: Monday 9th of March in the Marshall Great Hall. I aim to transform this event from a small, intimate gathering tucked away in a hidden room to a large-scale, loud and visible event full of life and celebration. The impact of this will be empowering and promoting inclusivity of the intersectional women+ community at LSE.
- Attended Liberation Committee and Executive Committee meetings with Sabbs and PTOs to discuss and strategise how we can best address initiatives such as divestment, consent culture and cost of living. This has allowed me to learn more about key issues within the SU and how the SU operates, which allows me to more effectively represent my community on a variety of issues.
- Collaborating with the Welfare and Liberation Officer to address issues concerning LSE's Report + Support system and consent culture on campus, with the aim of ensuring that students feel comfortable reporting incidents and overcoming underreporting.
- Analysing initial responses from The Period Petition (data science master's coming in clutch). I have started to write a report on the results of this which will be shared with the School. I have also received data on the LSE Residential Life period product orders (as they supply period products in halls), and footfall data for the Library which will be used conjunctively to create a cost analysis of how much this service would likely cost in the Library.

Wins from this term

- 232 signatures on The Period Petition!
- 44 volunteer members on the campaign team!
- Period-themed Sway organised!
- Women's Gala confirmed!
- Permission to advertise The Period Petition in the Library secured!

- Initial findings from The Period Petition!

Things students should know about your area

- The time I am spending on the period products campaign is in an effort to combat period poverty and increase equal access to education for women and anyone who experiences periods. This also has impacts on the cost of living for all menstruating students.

Priorities for next term

- Continue the period products campaign with momentum; hopefully secure some kind of confirmation that LSE will start to provide these in at least one key building.
- International Women's Month: I plan to create a schedule of events that are taking place throughout this month to advertise to all students. I am aware of many club/society events already as well as an event by the LSE Volunteer Centre that I am supporting.
- The Women's Gala!!!



LSE STUDENTS' UNION

[Click here to view the Executive Report video](#)