



## Candidates for the role of Humanist Students President-Elect

Please see below for the details of **Candidate 3: Angelos Sofocleous** standing for the role of Humanist Students President-Elect. Please use the [Voting Form](#) in order to cast your vote. You are only able to vote in this election if you are a student member of Humanists UK. Each member has one vote only.

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## Candidate 3: Angelos Sofocleous

### Biography:

My name is Angelos Sofocleous and I study Philosophy and Psychology at the University of Durham. I have been the President of Durham Humanist Students Society since May 2016. I am currently involved in Humanist Students as an Officer and I am a board member of the Atheist Alliance of America and Cyprus Humanist Association. I frequently write for issues relating to humanism, religion, culture, and secularism, at Conatus News, Secular Nation, Palatinate UK, and The Bubble UK, for which I am also an editor.

### Supporting statement:

Dear Humanist Students members,

Humanism in the UK is facing great challenges which pose a threat not only to humanism itself, but to the notions of freedom, human rights, and reason, values which we, as Humanist Students, endorse, adopt, and implement in our campaigns.

There is now an unprecedented momentum for humanism, as indicated by the fact that, according to the annual British Social Attitudes Survey, 53% of Britons are non-religious, setting a concrete foundation upon which humanism can flourish.

I am putting myself forward as candidate for President-Elect for Humanist Students for this exact reason: To take advantage of this momentum that has been created in decades of campaigns, demonstrations, and battles by humanists, atheists, freethinkers, human rights activists and opponents of religious privilege.

We need to secure that the voice of reason, rationality, and free thinking, prevails over any notion of faith, belief, and superstition.

We need to ensure that no person or organisation enjoys privilege or is treated differently or unfairly because of their religion or faith (or their lack of).

We need to take action: Removing the Bishops from the House of Lord, campaigning against faith schools and successfully bringing them down, and establishing a nationwide network for



non-religious students, are only a few of the campaigns through which humanism can emerge victorious in the upcoming years.

I envision Humanist Students to be the primary proponent of reason around UK campuses. Thereupon, I look forward in putting my ideas into practice, as president of Humanist Students.

These include:

1. Create and maintain stronger bonds with Young Humanists section of Humanists UK to ensure that our common campaigns will reach as many people of our age as possible, increasing the effectiveness of our campaigns.
2. Establish a Humanist Students online newspaper and portal which will serve as the voice of humanist societies and students across the UK. It is a threatening problem for young people and students today who, despite living in a world which is more interconnected than ever before, find it difficult to expand on their ideas and develop their thoughts.
3. Focus on taking action at university-level in issues that affect students, a widely neglected but maximally important part of the population. These include provision of non-religious pastoral support to students, ensuring that students of no faith are treated equally to students of faith, and raising the issue of the unfair treatment and benefits that religious student societies receive.

I aspire to be the one who leads Humanist Students in tackling these challenges in an attempt to provide an environment where rationality, reason, and free thinking can flourish and prosper.

I ask you to accept my call to take action for the issues that most matter to us as humanists, and vote for a candidate whose passion, zeal, and experience can make Humanist Students societies thrive.

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