



Statement of Common Cause

Universities Scotland, the Scottish Trades Union Congress and the National Union of Students share a strongly held belief that a vibrant and successful higher education sector has much to offer Scotland and its people.

Universities Scotland represents the Principals and Directors of Scotland's 19 higher education institutions (HEI). The STUC represents over 627,000 working people and their families, in the workplace and in the community. The STUC's affiliated unions have interests in all sectors of the economy, including Higher Education. NUS Scotland is the key voice for students in Scotland, working to promote, defend and extend the rights of students.

There is much that our organisations value greatly about Scotland's higher education and we are united in our commitment to:

- the importance of long-term, sustainable, public investment in teaching and research at levels that ensure institutions' international competitiveness.
- every HEI delivering an appropriate mixture of both teaching and research
- the four-year degree as the core of flexible undergraduate provision
- responsible autonomy and academic freedom
- further progress on widening access
- supporting the migration of talent to Scotland, both in terms of university staff and students as well as the outward mobility of Scottish-domiciled students and the development of students as global citizens
- a diverse university sector which recognises and meets the diverse needs of learners
- the sector's ownership, with students and staff, of quality assurance and enhancement
- ensuring that fair and just treatment is a central value for HEIs in their dealings with students, staff and others
- aspiring towards achieving high standards of employment practice for staff, paying due regard to issues that are of concern to staff and valuing the contribution made by staff

Our organisations will work collaboratively on the areas outlined in this statement of common cause.

There will be other issues upon which our respective organisations take a different perspective. That is our right as organisations which represent different memberships. However, where this happens this does not detract from our shared values. We believe that an environment which provides the freedom to disagree and to challenge each other, whilst still holding on to the underlying principles we both believe in, is one of the tremendous assets of our higher education sector in Scotland.