

Congling's Diversity Manifesto

Who am I?

Hi, I'm Congling and I'm a first-year violinist at Trinity Laban. I would love the opportunity to run for Diversity Officer at the Students' Union, as I really feel I would be well-suited to this role.

As a mixed race, queer woman I feel that I relate first-hand to some of the issues (big and small) that people from minority communities experience every day. Though I have faced my share of discrimination over the years, I feel massively privileged to be here at TL and I would like to use my sense of belonging here to help other students from different backgrounds feel the same way.

It is so important to have this officer on the SU, and I think that were I able to, I would love working with the other members of the team to make TL as inclusive and safe as possible. Any student who has any worries or experiences any form of racism should have a person to talk to and help them to take action.

What I would like to achieve

I love to organise events and I would be ready to collaborate with the VP of Events to create new socials for the SU, for example celebrating Black History Month or Pride. If anybody were to come up with more suggestions, then I would of course take these on board and help realise them. (For example, a musical theatre student and friend of mine recently recommended a fair event where students could share information and food from their country of origin/heritage. I think this is an excellent idea, especially considering we have students from over 60 countries studying here at TL.) I would also like to help with the SU's social media to share informative material to all students to give them some knowledge on current issues, for example the Stop Asian Hate and Black Lives Matter movements.

From an academic viewpoint, I think that although TL is starting to appreciate the need for diversity, still more could be done to truly decolonise our education. I would make suggestions of how to make this happen, for example by featuring more composers of colour in our Music History course, and by also making sure students learn about the systemic oppression these musicians faced. By liaising with staff, I would also hope to feature more diverse authors in the Jerwood library, perhaps creating some stands featuring books on performance from different cultures. Finally I would like to start some more societies/ ensembles that would celebrate different cultures, for example a group made up of all BAME people.

Thank you for taking to time to read this and if I get the chance, I can't wait to start campaigning for and celebrating all the wonderfully diverse students at TL.