



NO MORE GUARANTORS

National Lobby Day Information Pack

**MY PRESENT
OUR FUTURE**

nus
national union of students

No More Guarantors: How student officers can lobby to Fix Student Housing

Dear friends,

We have a huge opportunity to help fix student housing right now. The new government is bringing in a Renters' Rights Bill which will improve the lives of student renters: but we have to work together to make sure it truly reflects what students need.

When we were student officers, we saw hundreds of students per year come to us with housing struggles - and we know the same is true of almost every single students' union and association in our membership.

We know that landlords requiring tenants to have a guarantor who owns property in the UK creates barriers for estranged, working class and international students from finding a place to live. That's why we're calling for No More Guarantors, so no student's background stops them from achieving their best.

At NUS, we are organising a National Lobby Day on the 23rd October 2024 to give every students union the opportunity to bring their MP onside with these asks and make sure the new Renters Rights Bill works for students.

This is our opportunity to get the government to take action on guarantor requirements, on landlords requiring rent up front and on students being evicted.

We need every students union to write to their MPs and request to meet them on October 23rd in Parliament - to talk to them about our collective asks for the Renters' Rights Bill. We will brief you, give you national data to help you convince them and help you get a meeting if your MP is unresponsive.

We could soon be able to ensure that no student needs a guarantor - but we have to act now, and get lobbying. To make all this a reality we need your help. Join us in lobbying your MPs to ensure the Renters' Rights Bill truly transforms the lives of student renters.

In this pack, you will find everything you need to make a difference as part of the National Lobby Day - we look forward to working with you to make a difference.

In solidarity,



Amira Campbell
NUS UK President



Qasim Hussain
Vice President
Further Education



Alex Stanley
Vice President
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Vice President
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No More Guarantors: The Plan

You may already be aware of our Fix Student Housing campaign, which has three demands from the government:

- **Abolish Guarantors:** Student officers have told us that students being required to have guarantors who own property in the UK, or pay their rent upfront, is a huge problem, and can leave some students unable to find anywhere to live – especially for international students, estranged and working class students.
- **Outlaw Rent Up Front:** Demanding rent up front is a significant financial burden, especially for poorer, estranged, and international students. Some students are forced to borrow money, risking debt and further hardship.
- **No Student Exemption for Section 21 Evictions:** Section 21 evictions, or “no-fault” evictions, disproportionately affect students, disrupting their studies, mental well-being, and financial stability. We urge ministers to ensure there is no two-tier rental market and that students have secure tenancies.

We now have an opportunity to make these asks a reality. In July 2024, the new government announced in the King’s Speech that they would be putting the Renters’ Rights Bill forward in Parliament. This Bill will take action on the housing crisis, and should improve conditions for student renters.

In the Manifesto for our Future, we asked the next government to commit to abolishing the need for guarantors or equivalent rental payments. Now, we’re making sure that happens.

Our tactics:

1. **Amend the Renters’ Rights Bill – and make sure everyone backs the amendment.**
We’re going to ask friendly MPs to back an amendment to the Bill which would prevent the use of guarantors or equivalent schemes.
2. **Build the evidence base for No More Guarantors –** Right now, decision makers don’t really know guarantors cause problems for students. We’ll launch a Call for Evidence for students’ unions to share their data and their students’ experiences of guarantors with us. This will be open from 11th September to 4th October, and we will have a copy of the report ready for all attendees of the National Lobby Day.
3. **Get MPs onside through SU lobbying –** this is where the National Lobby Day comes in! By being a part of this, you’re helping to get your MP to support the Renters’ Rights Bill amendment and build the narrative around the problems of guarantors.

What is a National Lobby Day?

A National Lobby Day is when every SU books a meeting with their MP on the same day, and we all lobby them on the same things. By doing this all together, we make sure our issues are at the top of the agenda in Parliament and we make sure people know they’re important.

How the National Lobby Day works

What do I need to do to take part?

There are three simple steps to being a part of this:

1. Write to your MP and request that they meet with you in Westminster on October 23rd to discuss housing, the Renters' Rights Bill and student issues
2. [Tell us that you've written to them, and that you have requested a meeting](#)
3. Book your transport to London for October 23rd!

What happens on the day?

On October 23rd, you need to arrive in London with two hours to spare before your meeting. Then you will need to:

1. Check in with the NUS UK team! We will be based in Methodist Central Hall, which is about 5 minutes from Parliament.
2. We will give you a pre-meeting briefing on how to get the most out of your meeting – and loads of last minute hype! We'll launch some fresh data and insight on the national problem of guarantors, which we will be able to brief you on and give you a copy of the report to give your MPs.
3. Meet your MP. They will usually want to meet in Portcullis House or in a nearby cafe
4. Come back and tell us how it went! We need to keep really accurate records of MP meetings so come and feed back to us, and make sure we all follow up on any actions required.
5. Come to our social afterwards! We'll book some space in an SU nearby so that we can spend time together as a movement, and celebrate a successful National Lobby Day!

Where do I come to on the day to check in?

The NUS team will be based in a room in Methodist Central Hall from 9am – 7pm on October 23rd. We'll send you the exact details when you've signed up to take part! It takes you about 5 minutes to get from there to Parliament, and then you should always allow half an hour to get in through security checks – so factor that into your timings when booking travel!

We will also have people in Parliament to help as well.

How the National Lobby Day works

What if my MP is ghosting me?

Sometimes, MPs won't be able to meet and will arrange an alternate time – that's fine, just tell us when and where you're meeting, so that we're also able to support you.

If your MP doesn't reply, however, you can and should still come to Parliament, and we will help you do something called "green slipping".

Your MPs job is to represent you. That means you can go into Parliament and request that they come and see you – even if you haven't arranged it– and they have to try and find time. You do this by getting a green slip – which is why it's called "green slipping."

Don't rely on this – it's much better to book a meeting in advance – and this is only for people who have tried to get in touch and been ignored!

On October 23rd, we will have some of the NUS UK team stationed inside Parliament to help you with "green slipping" if you need to – so just because your MP might not reply, you don't have to miss out on the collective action.

Can I lobby other people?

Yes! The Renters' Rights Bill will also be going through the House of Lords. Lords don't have a constituency like MPs, but they can meet you. You should research if your uni, college or area has any connections in the House of Lords – it could be someone on the Board of Governors, someone who has an honorary qualification, or even someone who comes from the same place as you. Again, we need to keep track of these meetings, so let us know who you are reaching out to and how!

How will my students be involved? Can I bring them with me?

There are loads of different ways to involve your students! You should consult with them when you submit your response to our Call for Evidence, and get their real life stories to share to help convince people in power of the issue (with permission, of course!).

NUS will be launching a really quick and simple Write to Your MP action for students, where they will fill in their postcodes and be able to send a pre-written letter to their MPs, which lays out the problems with the guarantor system, and also reaffirms the need for MPs to talk to students and students' unions in their constituencies. We will share assets and a comms pack to promote this at the end of September.

You can absolutely bring students with you on October 23rd – but just be cautious as to how many, as if this is the first time you're meeting your MP, you don't want to overwhelm them with 50 people in their office!

How the National Lobby Day works

What support can I get from NUS UK?

We will run briefing sessions in the weeks before the National Lobby Day. In them, we will go over key arguments to make the case for No More Guarantors, share the trends from the Call for Evidence on Guarantors and answer any questions you have about how the day works.

We'll also be in Westminster with you all day on October 23rd!

Will there be anything to do afterwards?

Yes! We're working up some plans for the evening, so book a late train or flight home!

Coordinating the national movement: tell us who you're talking to.

Don't forget to keep us in the loop! After you've contacted your MP, please [take a moment to fill out our quick survey](#). This helps us track our collective progress and provide you with timely support. Whether you've secured a meeting or are still waiting for a response, your update is crucial. It allows us to coordinate our efforts effectively and ensure you have all the resources you need for a successful Lobby Day.

[Tell us you've asked your MP for a meeting here.](#)

Writing to your MP: A Step by Step Guide

It's really important to build a relationship with your new MP early on in their journey – and as officer teams at the start of your terms or second terms, you are ideally placed to do so.

This briefing is a step-by-step guide to writing a welcome letter to your new MP, and asking them to meet you in Westminster for the National Lobby Day on October 23rd.

We have included parts for you to customize, and parts for you to use which reflect national priorities. Please do arrange a meeting with your MP. We will be mapping where students have influence across the country, so make sure you let us know so we can add you to it.

1) Address your MP

You can find your MP's preferred form of address and contact details [here](#). Make sure to write to them at their constituency address, as they are obliged to reply to every email from a constituent.

2) Introduce yourselves and your SU

You should introduce yourselves as the officer team, and explain what your SU is. Aim to include answers to the following questions in your paragraph:

- Introduce yourselves as a new officer team – when were you elected and why did you get involved in politics?
- Introduce the SU – sometimes MPs haven't been students, or have been students along time ago, so need an intro to what the SU is and does!
- How many students do you represent – and how many of them live in the constituency?

3) Tell them why you're writing to them – ask them to meet with you on October 23rd, in Westminster.

Emphasise here that you would like to work together for the good of students in your constituency.

- Say that you are taking part in NUS' campaign work on "No More Guarantors."
- Part of that campaign is a National Lobby Day, where student officers from across the UK are booking meetings with their MPs in Westminster on October 23rd, to talk to them about the issues they're experiencing with housing
- Flag that students were really happy to see promises to improve renters' rights in the Labour Manifesto, and in the King's Speech, and you'd like to be involved in making this the best it possibly can be for students
- Flag that there's a massive opportunity in the Renters' Rights Bill to back an amendment which would outlaw the requirement for guarantors, and for equivalent schemes, and you would like to discuss this with them directly, on October 23rd in Westminster.

4) Sign off with how much you are looking forward to working together, both in Westminster and at home!

Remember, to really build the relationship you are going to have to get a meeting in early with your new MP, so make sure to ask them to meet you in Westminster, and offer for them to visit the SU to see students directly.

Thank you for being a part of it!

We can't wait to see you in Parliament on October 23rd. With any questions, please email membership@nus.org.uk!

Key Dates and Guide to Links

4th September: Email your MP

Make sure to do this as soon as possible to guarantee they have time to meet with you on 23rd October in Westminster.

11th September: Call for Evidence on impact of guarantors on student renters

We will email you all the information you need for this on 11th September.

1st October: Deadline to email your MP

Email your MP using the information in this pack and make sure you [tell us you have done so by 1st October](#).

4th October: Call for Evidence on impact of guarantors on student renters closes

In order for us to get the report out in time for the National Lobby Day, please make sure you have submitted your evidence by 4th October. Link to do so will be emailed on 11th September.

11th October: Deadline to tell us if you've heard back from your MP and book in a pre-meet

We understand if your MP has not got back to you by this date, but if they have please make sure to [tell us by 11th October so we can book in a pre-meet to support you in your meeting](#).

8th October, 3pm: National Lobby Day Zoom briefing 1

We will be hosting two zoom briefings so everyone feels confident about how to take part in the National Lobby Day. [RSVP for the first one here](#).

14th October, 2pm: National Lobby Day Zoom briefing 2

[RSVP for the second Zoom briefing here](#).

23rd October: National Lobby Day and sabb meet up!