



**ISSU**  
IRISH SECOND-LEVEL  
STUDENTS' UNION

# **ISSU Directive Mandate Book**

**Adopted by An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2023**

**Last Amended in June 2023 following An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2023**

The following Directive Mandates were enacted at An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2023, and will expire in 2026.

DM 1	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Rebecca Livingstone
ISSU Mandates (Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí)	The ISSU will support, and advocate for the Referendum on Gender Equality in line with the recommendations made by the Citizens Assembly on Gender Equality.
Rationale	The upcoming Referendum is important to achieving SDG 5 Gender Equality and this is something the whole Coiste Gnó should be supporting. The referendum is focused on recommendations made by the Citizens Assembly on Gender Equality.

DM 2	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Heather Doyle
ISSU Mandates (Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí)	Many students that don't attend mainstream schools (i.e are home-schooled) do not have access to joining the ISSU as they do not have the facilities to develop a student council. This here-by mandates that the ISSU develop a structure for these students to join the union and be represented by the Irish Second-Level Students' Union.
Rationale	There is an ever growing number of students being home-schooled around the country and the union needs to be a place for all students to be represented however with the current structure you can only become a member of ISSU if your school has a functioning student council, and home-school students do not have the resources to start a student council. This is why the ISSU needs to research a way to let these students into the union so we can accurately represent, defend, and uplift these students' voices.

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DM 3	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Andrew Victory
ISSU Mandates (Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí)	The ISSU will hold a voter registration campaign to advocate for and increase the number of students registered as members of the electorate. In particular, this campaign should be run in the upcoming months to elections and referendums, as called for by the respective officials.
Rationale	The ISSU has long been a supporter of the Vote@16 campaign and youth participation in the democratic process. Recently, the Government has allowed citizens aged 16 and 17 to pre-register to vote in Irish Local, National, European, and Presidential Election. By running this campaign it will increase the amount of students registered to vote and highlight that young people are capable and eager to be members of the electorate.

DM 4	
Supporting School	Longford - Westmeath Region
Proposing Delegate	Sam Brooks
ISSU Mandates (Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí)	It is noted that Leaving Cert 2024 students were also adversely affected by Covid-19 and that in comparison to Leaving Cert 2023 (Who missed the end of 3rd Year and Transition Year), Leaving Cert 2024 missed most of their Junior Cycle, their Mock Examinations, and the Junior Cert itself  Therefore the Coiste Gnó is mandated to set maintaining current exam adjustments as the minimum in any negotiations or advocacy with the department on the issue of the 2024 Leaving Certificate.
Rationale	2024 Leaving Cert Students arguably missed more vital time in school (for exam value) than the majority of 2023 Leaving Cert Students. Therefore the ISSU should

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	set a baseline at this early stage to give reassurance to any students who will be sitting the Leaving Cert next year.
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DM 5	
Supporting School	Hartstown Community School
Proposing Delegate	Daniella Eze
ISSU Mandates (Leas-Uachtarán)	One of the ISSU's main aims are "To empower student councils to be democratic and effective representative bodies". Contributions to achieve this aim are principally demonstrated where Coiste Gnó officers must produce a student council resource during their term. In the interest of continuing to achieve this it is hereby mandated that the Leas Uachtarán of the ISSU is to lead an evaluation of existing ISSU resources to determine if they remain student friendly, accessible and fit for purpose.
Rationale	The Hartstown Community School Student Council is dedicated to bring itself more in line with the ISSU and its policies. However, there has been a great deal of difficulty in interpreting and navigating resources published by the ISSU. Within the school more than 4 limited hours from several members and committees has been dedicated to reviewing syntax and grammar in ISSU templates. Therefore as a member school we ask for ISSU resources to be evaluated and reviewed if they are still fit for purpose and easy to use.

The following Directive Mandates were enacted at An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2022, and will expire in 2025.

<b>DM 1</b>	
<b>Supporting School:</b>	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
<b>Proposing Delegate:</b>	Emer Neville
<b>ISSU Mandates:</b>	<p>The ISSU condems the ever-growing issue of sexual harassment in second-level schools and will commit to working to tackle this issue through consent education, campaigns, reports, stakeholder engagements and all other avenues to bring about necessary change.</p> <p>The Coiste Gnó must produce a report, similar to that of the national study on sexual harassment in higher education, in conjunction with relevant organisations to gather data on this issue and will advocate for change alongside this.</p>

<b>DM 2</b>	
<b>Supporting School:</b>	Hartstown Community School
<b>Proposing Delegate:</b>	Emma Galvin
<b>ISSU Mandates:</b>	<p>It is noted with concern that many students in Ireland experiencing mental health crises' in schools are not given adequate support or help.</p> <p>It is recognised that teachers are not trained for this type of crisis however, every student is entitled to a quality education, including a safe environment which can support them in their journey through second-level education.</p> <p>This mandate requires the Coiste Gnó to work with organisations such as the PDST, NEPS and the Department of Education to ensure that every school in Ireland has all teachers trained to aid students experiencing a mental health crisis.</p>

<b>DM 3</b>	
<b>Supporting School:</b>	St Macartan's College
<b>Proposing Delegate:</b>	Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin
<b>ISSU Mandates:</b>	While those in rural communities are outspoken on the need for climate justice, environmental action has been marred by an urban/rural divide in recent years. For example, including both the cost and limited provision of public transport services, in addition to the recent concerns over the viability of Bus Éireann's school transport scheme due to fuel costs, have placed a hardship on those seeking sustainable alternatives for transport, among others. As a result, the Sustainability Officer is hereby mandated to create a Rural Students Sustainability Working Group during their term to deal with the aforementioned concerns.

<b>DM 4</b>	
<b>Supporting School:</b>	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
<b>Proposing Delegate:</b>	Emer Neville
<b>ISSU Mandates:</b>	The ISSU will undertake a programme to campaign and implement changes in Irish education to uphold, defend and protect the rights of trans students and it will be a central pillar of the Coiste Gnó workplan Further to this when engaging with national media, specifically the Irish Times, the ISSU will use its platform to consistently and continuously highlight Trans Rights and amplify trans students voices in the national media to combat anti-trans commentary.

<b>DM 5</b>	
<b>Supporting School:</b>	St Macartan's College
<b>Proposing Delegate:</b>	Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin
<b>ISSU Mandates:</b>	As the representative on a national level for sustainability for over 400,000 second-level students, it is important that the Sustainability Officer engages regularly with students to directly represent them in a fair and equal way. As a result, the Sustainability Officer is hereby mandated to engage with students directly on a national level at least once in their term through a national sustainability consultation event.

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