



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 02/05/09**

### **Scottish students have condemned the current suggestions of how best to address the shortcomings in the current funding of Higher Education.**

A response from the Coalition of Higher Education Students in Scotland (CHES) to the 'Supporting a Smarter Scotland' consultation comes after extensive discussion between CHES, the National Union of Students Scotland, and various members of the Scottish Parliament. The response explains that all options presented in the consultation are insufficient to combat the failings of the current funding system.

CHES, the Coalition of Higher Education Students in Scotland, urged the Scottish government to focus their resources on tackling student hardship rather than graduate debt. They also call for the establishment of a minimum income guarantee that would ensure that students from all socio-economic backgrounds have sufficient financial support to attend University.

CHES highlighted the 'vicious circle' students get stuck in when forced into excessive part-time work and reliance upon commercial credit to afford the essentials such as rent, utilities and food. Not only can this deter students from entering Higher Education, it can also lead to students dropping out and not realising their full potential – both harmful to the Scottish economy.

Gavin Lee, CHES Convenor said "Any increase in student funding is a positive step, but the consultation has not addressed any of the changes that are imperative to improving the current funding system.

I don't believe asking the Scottish Government to help students out of poverty is 'politically ill-judged' as Fiona Hyslop suggests. Higher Education can be the bedrock of a strong, successful Scotland – but only if the Scottish Government wise up.

Hyslop has shown contempt for the Higher Education sector, and has poured scorn on requests for students to be properly supported. I'd like to see Fiona Hyslop survive on the £4,510 students are expected to live on each year."

*The Coalition of Higher Education Students in Scotland (CHES) exists to promote and enhance the position of students in higher education in Scotland and act as their voice on national issues. By listening to CHES as a national student body you can be assured that you are listening to the voice of 100,000 higher education students in Scottish institutions. CHES reflects the commitment to voicing concerns on issues that really matter to students.*

*CHES represents the students of the following institutions at a national level: the University of Dundee, the University of Glasgow, the Glasgow School of Art, Open University in Scotland, the University of Aberdeen, the University of Strathclyde, the University of St. Andrews.*

**To read the full response go to: <http://www.glasgowstudent.net/events/smarterscotland/>**

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