

## General Council Elections 2022 *BAME Students' Rep Portfolio Nomination Form*

**Name:** Ciaran Nevers

### **Why are you standing for election to GC?**

I started as the BAME Rep portfolio holder in September 2021, and have really enjoyed the contributions I have been able to make in this role. I love SCM and want to support its mission and vision as a community, and being on GC allows me to continue to do this.

### **What portfolio are you standing for and why?**

I wish to re-stand for the position of the BAME Rep portfolio holder. This is the portfolio I have experience in holding, so I wish to be re-elected to this position so I can put this experience into use for SCM - particularly for its active anti-racist and de-colonising work.

### **Tell us a bit about yourself:**

I am a Theology MA student at Exeter in the 'Liberal Catholic' stream of the Church of England - meaning I like bells and smells and the social gospel! I work part-time at the University Chapel as an assistant, so I care deeply about the work of forming and sustaining communities that are inclusive, affirming, and reconciling of difference. When not doing theology or Church stuff, I like to music (live or recorded), nerd out over a YouTube video essay, and chill with my friends.

### **What skills would you bring to General Council?**

The main skills I bring are 1) a critical awareness of issues relating to race, coloniality, and intersecting socio-political structures, and 2) a theological awareness of how these issues to the work of discipleship and the community of faith. I feel that these are essential to the role of BAME Rep (or at least, they have been for the last seven months) given the focuses of the portfolio that aim to give voice to the concerns and interests of BAME members. Having a theological and critical vocabulary available also allows me to give a more concrete form to these concerns and interests in a way that shows their direct link to the core mission and values of SCM.

### **How have you been involved in SCM as a member?**

I became involved with SCM through helping re-form the Exeter group in 2020. Since then I have become president of that group and was offered the position of BAME Rep for the national movement in 2021. Across both of these positions I have attended various events and workshops locally in Exeter and further afield, and as BAME Rep I've organised a few myself for the national Movement!

### **What would you like to achieve if you are elected?**

If elected, the specific thing I want to focus on is the movement from critical deconstruction to active reconstruction and reconciliation within SCM. We know we want to be, and in many ways are, anti-racist and de-colonial both as a community and in the work we do as that community. This is a good desire, and the creation of the BAME Rep portfolio is a strong testament to a commitment to fulfilling this desire. It does, however, need to become understood as more than a critical stance to be adopted and see the world from and instead be seen as an active opportunity to grow and overcome division. This movement from seeing division to seeking to heal both sides of it is, I feel, something at SCM can offer campuses and the world beyond them through its work of community. The work of reconciliation is difficult and requires courage and faith in the potential of peace-building, but by being elected as BAME Rep I hope to help SCM lay the foundations of this for its future work addressing race, colonialism, and any other de-humanising divisions in the world.