**SAIH’s Political Priorities**

Higher education institutions are centers for the development of innovative knowledge, transmission of ideas, and critical debate. Academics and students can at free and autonomous institutions develop tools for critical and constructive thinking and cultivate new knowledge and research to drive societal progress. We believe that an open, political, and critical higher education community is essential for cultivating a thriving civil society for our collective present and future.

We work to achieve this through creative campaigns, engaging in public debate, and strategic political advocacy, based on high-standard research and knowledge. Our advocacy and campaigns are aimed at various stakeholders in Norway and internationally, such as politicians, organizations and higher education institutions.

The political priorities are equally important and not in a prioritized order.

**Fight for the right to equal and just access to higher education.***Barriers to access higher education**are a pervasive issue globally, disproportionately affecting historically oppressed, war-driven, and marginalized individuals and communities, and perpetuating cycles of inequality and systemic discrimination. We will fight for increased financing of higher education and advocate for progressive national and international policy on access to higher education.*

* A United Nations Tax Convention is established and implemented, so national decision makers can increase national budgets for higher education.

**Protect academic freedom in the time of authoritarianism.**

*Safeguarding academic freedom is essential for promoting intellectual diversity and preserving higher education institutions as a pillar of democracy. Threats and attacks on students and academics not only stifle critical voices, but also undermine the pursuit of knowledge and the advancement of society as a whole. We will work to protect the rights and safety of students and academics to fight authoritarianism and strengthen civic space in society*.

* The budget for the Students at Risk program in Norway is increased and similar programs are established in other countries.
* The Norwegian government engage actively with the ‘Guiding Principles for Implementing the Right to Academic Freedom’.

**Promote critical thought and diversity within higher education institutions.**

*Throughout history, there have been many examples of education being used to legitimize oppression, resulting in the weakening and disappearance of entire languages, knowledge systems, and practices. Till today, we see examples of how ideas, practices, and structures from colonial times influence higher education. We will fight to promote, assure, and protect diversity in higher education and critically examine and challenge power dynamics within our education systems and societies.*

* Promote the recognition and accreditation of intercultural and Indigenous higher education institutions and the knowledge they produce.