

# UCU NEC elections: Vote Rhiannon Lockley

For Women Members representative, Further Education

Election runs from 1 to 26 February

# For an equality-focused union to defend education

**We are facing huge challenges in FE. The FE review will lead to mergers, job losses and course closures in a sector where the majority of staff and students are female, as well as having big effects across other equality strands.**

Meanwhile we have had huge cuts to ESOL at a time when we have a refugee crisis. We need a union with strong equality structures and clear strategies to take on these challenges.

I have worked in adult education in FE for 10 years. I'm an experienced activist with a record of active campaigning and organising.

I'm a branch secretary, West Midlands chair, and on the national Women Members' Standing Committee. In these roles I have:

- Developed strong links between my branch and Women's Aid, including training and curriculum changes to promote education as a means of preventing domestic violence.
- Successfully campaigned for better equalities union participation and representation, getting the support of Congress in challenging the decision to run different equality conferences simultaneously, and getting policy through for regions to have specific equality-strand officers (e.g. women members etc.).

I am proud of the work West Midlands region have been doing on this. I'm a part time worker with young children. We need solutions for the barriers that often prevent members like me getting active in the union.



- Focused on sustainability and growth, building links with student and youth activist groups locally and nationally. I have been pleased to contribute at UK Feminista and NCAFC events, where I have promoted trades unions and encouraged young people to get involved.
- Campaigned energetically on issues including adult education, EMA, bedroom tax, targeting of the Midlands by groups such as the EDL, abortion rights, domestic violence service cuts, and the TU bill.

Most recently I have been organising around the FE review in Birmingham, including lobbying the AOC conference in Birmingham to call on Nick Boles for properly funded FE in advance of the spending review.

I believe in the politics of hope. I support the UCU left in the same way that I am a member of the Red Labour organising group within the Labour party which

worked for the candidacy of Jeremy Corbyn.

It has been great to see the energy that has come from this successful campaign and to see people getting enthusiastic about politics and re-engaging after losing hope.

I believe success comes from the politics of positive action. We are one union and one labour movement and we all need to work together.

Encouraging pessimism and suggesting members keep their heads down and hope for better times later will further the erosion of our rights.

Instead, I will focus on growing our activists and working on strategies to defend our members and defend colleges.

Vote for me and vote for a union with strong equality structures and positive strategies to defend education.

**Vote Rhiannon Lockley 1, Elaine White 2**

## STV voting system

Please note that all members can vote in the elections for Equality, Casually Employed members' and Trustees seats

To maximise votes for progressive candidates we ask you to do the following:

- Please use your votes to **first endorse all UCU Left candidates** and only after that use lower preferences for other progressive candidates in each relevant list
- Give your highest preferences in the UK-elected list to UCU Left candidate(s) **from your region**

## UCU Left is supporting the following candidates in the NEC elections

**Vice-president FE**  
Mandy Brown

**London & the East HE**  
Sean Wallis, Ioanna Ioannou, Rachel Cohen, Mark Campbell

**London & the East FE**  
Sean Vernell, Julia Foster

**North East FE**  
Lee Short

**UK-elected FE**  
Margot Hill, Sarah Foster, Allister Mactaggart

**UK-elected HE**  
Mark Campbell, Pura Ariza, Julie Hearn

**Women members FE**  
Rhiannon Lockley, Elaine White

**Women members HE**  
Sue Abbott, Saira Weiner

**Black members**  
Dawn Livingston

**FE members (casual vacancy)**  
Elaine White

**For a lay leadership that will:**

- Fight to defend post-16 education
- Defend members' pensions, pay and conditions
- Respect democratic mandates
- Seek to build a campaigning, member-led union

More election materials can be found at the UCU Left website: [www.uculeft.org](http://www.uculeft.org)

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