

UCU NEC elections: vote Pura Ariza

For HE representative of LGBT members

Election runs from
1 February
- 1 March

UCU must put Equality at the heart of campaigning

There is no doubt that the recent monumental and sudden changes we have seen across the world make our union more important than ever in bringing us together to defend the future of education.

The success of Trump and the Brexit vote have sent shock waves across our movement, and nowhere more than among equality groups. We can see that our hard-won gains could be rolled back overnight.

It is essential that we continue to build a strong union which stands up to defend equality and fights back against prejudice and discrimination.

In the UK, universities continue to pursue their business model of managerialism and competition. In this, they invoke so-called equality issues but only as part of their advertising and marketing. Their real concern is for their ratings, not for their students or staff.

Recent reports of sexism on campus being deliberately swept under the carpet reveal a much more sinister picture, a far cry from the use of equality “targets” and “data” in our institutions’ advertising.

At the same time, the TEF threatens to institutionalise bias and favouritism, exposing staff to unregulated equality-bias in the types of surveys which students are under pressure to complete.

For a strong union where members feel confident to be out and proud and fighting for education

As an LGBT trade unionist with over 20 years’ experience, I believe there has never been a more important time in the fight for equality.

The recent report on the experiences and perceptions of LGBT staff in Post-16 education*, to which UCU has contributed, paints a picture of welcome gains – but with persistent levels of discrimination for both



staff and students.

There is emerging evidence of a growing hostility towards LGBTQ+ learners in post-16 education. I believe this mirrors the rise in racism we are witnessing as the door is opened to wider prejudice.

I support the work of Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants and am an active member of Stand Up To Racism in my workplace. I believe UCU must actively support EU workers and migrants.

Universities have always valued international work, and now we must stand up for our international colleagues’ rights.

I would like to build a union which puts these issues at the heart of all its work and campaigns. The recent HE pay dispute offered an excellent model, linking our pay demands to the issue of the growing gender pay gap. But campaigns need clear leadership, and many branches felt that the absence of a vibrant national campaign was a lost opportunity.

I am committed to continuing the fight for equal pay. This is an issue we can win, but UCU needs to demonstrate greater energy and commitment to building the campaign and formulating a strategy.

We live in fast-changing times. As a

member of UCU Left I believe UCU has a key role in opposing privatisation and defending education and equality. We are stronger when we work together. I support working with other unions, with students and with other equality campaign groups wherever possible.

If elected I will:

- Ensure equality is part of every UCU campaign and action
- Support joint LGBTQ+ campaigns with students on campus
- Support joint campaigns against the TEF and PREVENT, highlighting the inherent threats to LGBT staff and students
- Continue to campaign against the inherent threat to equality in the marketization of education, and ensure UCU provides support to branches in pursuing equal pay audits, etc.
- Put members’ decisions at the heart of campaigns and strategy and ensure the NEC adheres to membership decisions
- Campaign against soaring workloads and casualisation, highlighting the effects on equality groups
- Oppose any reduction to equality structures in UCU

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

Trustees

Steve Cushion
Laura Miles

General Secretary

Jo McNeill

Vice President HE

Carlo Morelli

Honorary

Treasurer

Professor Paul
Anderson

Midlands HE

Elio Di Muccio

Midlands FE

Rhiannon Lockley
Safia Flissi

UK-elected

members FE

Mandy Brown
Richard McEwan

UK-elected

members HE

Carlo Morelli
Marion Hersh
Phoebe Moore
Ioanna Ioannou

South HE

Lesley Kane
Mark Abel
Marian Mayer

Representatives

of LGBT members

Pura Ariza

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: uculeft.org

Find out more at uculeft.org