

# UCU at a crossroads: how do we rise to the challenge?

**T**he campaign last year to defend adult education following the 24% cut to funding showed what UCU could achieve at its best. It is frustrating that we are now squandering opportunities to consolidate this support and reverse the thousands of jobs we have lost since the crisis.

The campaign mobilised three major Parliamentary lobbies. We worked alongside Labour and progressive parties, such as the Greens, to raise the profile of FE to its highest level for years. Esol students were at the forefront of the campaign. We did not reverse the cut but secured four years funding protection. This helped to defend jobs and to momentarily pull FE back from the brink.

During this time UCU launched one of its most popular pay claims with two successful strikes. The Shadow Chancellor supported our claim. The labour policy of a National Education Service reflects much of our work and policy. Both Jeremy Corbyn and Mayor Sadiq Khan in London have pledged to champion FE.

Unfortunately, since then the UCU has retreated from a national fight on pay and has not developed an effective strategy to defend FE or challenge the rationalisation, cuts and narrowing of the curriculum contained in Area Reviews.

In the coming months and years UCU needs to seize the opportunities to rebuild. We can turn around the retreat on national pay with coordinated action to defend pay and contracts. I will work to ensure UCU is proactive in forging



alliances to defend education from the Cradle to the Grave.

## National service:

- UCU NEC 2010-2016.
- UCU FEC Vice Chair 2014-16.
- Education Committee & Strategy and Finance Committees.
- London Region Executive Committee.
- Current National Negotiator.
- TUC UCU delegate 2015.

## Contribution:

- Supported Action for Esol.
- Co-organised two lobbies of Parliament.
- Spoke at the London pay strike rally last November.
- Coordinated campaigns to defend jobs and funding across London.
- Moved a motion at conference for maths and English teachers to organise on the curriculum.
- UCU left member.

## Tower Hamlets College branch roles:

- Membership officer 2007-8.
- Joint branch secretary 2008-10.
- Negotiator 2008-15.
- Initiated a gender pay audit locally.

## If elected I will:

- Regularly report back to members through a newsletter and website.
- Campaign to secure more FE & Adult funding, restore our pay, close the gender pay gap and end casualisation.
- Organise to defend conditions e.g. London Capital Contract Campaign.
- Support stand up to racism, oppose Islamophobia and Prevent.
- Defend EU members, defend asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.
- Ensure UCU policy is implemented.
- Defend victimised reps.
- Support any union defying the anti-Trade Union legislation.

I teach maths at Tower Hamlets College. Visit @rm\_ucu for a record of my service.

## 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](http://uculeft.org)

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