

Vote Nita Sanghera for UCU vice president

The ballot is now open, and closes on 1 March. Don't forget to vote!



Follow Nita's campaign

Twitter: @nita_4_vp_ucu
 Facebook: @Nita4VPuc
 Blog: nita4vpuc.wordpress.com/
 Email: npande.sanghera327@gmail.com
 For more information on all UCU Left candidates go to uculeft.org



Nita's union experience

- NEC Black Members' Representative
- West Midlands Women's Officer
- National Negotiator
- Black Members Standing Committee
- Branch Secretary Bournville College

UCU Left is supporting the following candidates in the NEC elections

- Vice President FE**
Nita Sanghera
- London & East HE**
Paul Anderson
Rachel Cohen
Ioanna Ioannou
Sean Wallis
- London & East FE**
Julia Roberts
Sean Vennell
- North East HE**
Jeff Fowler
Mike Lammiman
Steve Lui (Sun Chong Lui)
- North East FE**
Saleem Rashid

- North West FE**
Carol Cody
- N. Ireland HE**
Peter Collins
- UK-elected HE**
Mark Abel
Sumit Banga
Elio Di Muccio
Julie Hearn
Jo McNeill
- UK elected HE (casual vacancy)**
Marion Hersh
- UK-elected FE**
Margot Hill
Naina Kent
Richard McEwan
- Women members HE**
Sue Abbott
Pura Ariza
Marian Mayer
- Women members FE**
Martha Harris
Elaine White
- Land-based education**
Eleni Michalopoulou

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

Find out more at uculeft.org

I am an Access to HE Lecturer at Bournville College and I am asking for your vote to become vice president FE in the 2018 UCU elections. If you elect me you will elect UCU's first black president.

I believe in education, I believe in our union, and I believe that we are at a moment where we can create real change.

As a teacher and a committed union organiser at branch, area and now national levels, I believe in standing up against current attacks on education.

I believe in the importance of FE and HE for all our futures. We need Further and Higher Education to open access to education for all.

Corbyn

We stand on the brink of a new era. The Tory party is in chaos, and Jeremy Corbyn's radical manifesto with lifelong access to education at its heart has seen young people and the politically disengaged become enthusiastically mobilised.

This is why the battles our colleagues are mounting are so important. UCU's historic vote for industrial action in defence



of USS pensions in the pre-92 universities is now being backed up with the announcement of 14 days of strike action from Thursday 22 February.

I ask everyone who supports my campaign to support these strikes.

We need to twin our colleges and post-92 universities with our local pre-92 university. We need to join our colleagues on their picket lines and raise support for their strikes as widely as possible.

In the post-92 sector attacks on the Teachers Pensions Schemes will inevitably follow if the USS employers are allowed to destroy the pension scheme. Similarly, in FE members are organising for a fight to end pay cuts.

We need both powerful local and national political campaigning and industrial action to win on pensions and pay, to defend jobs, conditions and education. These are battles we can and must win.

Equality

From the abuse of capability and lack of support that shuts out disabled members, to reactionary attacks on LGBT+ rights, the ongoing gender pay gap, the growing refusal to be silent over sexual harassment and the imposition of the Prevent strategy, our members need a union that will place equality at the heart of our agenda.

As UCU's first black president I will answer this need. Scandalous numbers of staff are on zero-hours and hourly paid contracts.

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Why we back Nita

A good union President must be a strong equality activist. That is one reason why I am endorsing Nita. She has the experience, principles and resilience that UCU needs in a President.

She understands the importance of workplace organisation. She is committed to building and leading a fight to defend education, jobs, pay and pensions in all parts of post-16 education.

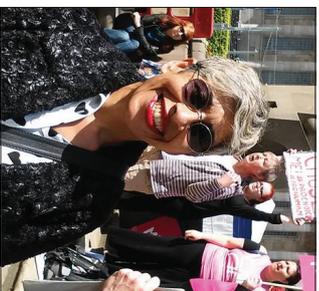
UCU has the opportunity to elect a Black Woman President, who will do a great job for members.

Liz Lawrence
UCU President 2014-16

I have worked with Nita on the NEC and on the Black Members' Standing Committee. Nita inspires and engages everyone around her with her energy, enthusiasm and grit.

In a time where our Black members, students and communities face renewed levels of hostility and racism, as a bright, strong Black woman Nita will send a powerful message that our union stands as one against any attempt to divide and isolate us.

Dave Muritu
NEC, Chair, Black Members' Standing Committee, Vice Chair Equality Committee



Nita is a long-serving, passionate activist who advocates equality and workers' rights at the core of all she does.

As a black woman Nita has faced intersectional adversity all of her life and she uses her experiences to help and support others.

That's the kind of person we need in this role. Someone who knows which direction this union needs to take and can engage members to unite. Nita is a natural leader, professional, articulate, confident and personable.

Jo McNeill
National pay negotiator (HE) and president University of Liverpool UCU

Nita is a fantastic inspiration for women in UCU. Meeting Nita I was immediately struck by her passion and commitment for fairness and equality for all our members.

Sue Abbott
Women's rep (HE) NEC and Chair Women Members Standing Committee

We desperately need Nita Sanghera to be elected as Vice President for UCU.

All of us who are campaigning to defend the USS pension scheme in universities will be encouraged and supported by the election of Nita.

We will have a Vice President willing to defend members with all the strength of the union in the fight for members' rights.

Carlo Morelli
Dundee UCU, NEC and USS negotiator

Nita would make a wonderful Vice President of our union. She is a determined fighter

for everyone's rights and as a black woman represents a more inclusive UCU that stands for every member at the same time offering leadership and solidarity in the fight for pensions and pay.

In the time I have been on the Disabled Members' Committee, Nita is one of the people that has been consistent in supporting disability equality.

I feel disabled members will be able to rely on Nita as an ally in the fight for equal access to jobs.

Elaine Heffernan
Disabled members' rep (FE) NEC and Chair, Disabled Members' Standing Committee

>>from front page

In our prison sector we have seen the curriculum stripped to the bone and privatisation and cuts put members at risk.

Stress, sickness and mental ill-health are rocketing. As president I will speak out about how wrong this is. And I will also fight for safety and justice in the working life of every member.

As an experienced FE lecturer, I've seen the devastating impact of years of austerity. I have organised in my branch and region as the area review cut provision and jobs.

While Ofsted have abandoned graded observations, many colleges are still hanging on to management led observations and learning walks.

These continue the link between observation and capability. We need to restore autonomy to teaching staff.

Democracy

As the UCU Left candidate, I stand for a union with member-led democracy at its heart. We need a fighting union that is organised and strong enough to take on the injustices faced by our members and which takes the opportunity to create a radical new education sector which puts emancipation and academic freedom, not corporate greed, at its heart.

Vote for me and other UCU Left candidates. Vote for hope, solidarity and equality.



Photo: Guy Smallman

WHAT NITA STANDS FOR

UCU LEFT CANDIDATES are standing in this election based on a shared vision of the tasks facing the union and how we should organise to meet these challenges.

- Defending education and academic freedom
- Protecting jobs, pay and employment conditions
- Putting equality at the heart of the union: fighting racism, misogyny and all oppression.
- Upholding internationalism, rights of migrants and refugees

Defending education and academic freedom

Nita stands for defence of academic freedom and freedom of speech. She calls for investment in education, including restoration of the Education Maintenance Allowance, and ending of tuition fees.

Protecting jobs, pay and employment conditions

Nita knows the pressures members are feeling—

escalating workloads, pay rises well below inflation, precarious employment and attacks on pensions.

She is the candidate who is committed to building a fightback. She will campaign for effective industrial action.

Putting equality at the heart of the union:

Nita is a leading equality activist in her workplace, branch and union. She is active in UCU's equality structures.

Nita understands that we must resist all forms of oppression and discrimination and fight racism, homophobia, transphobia, disability, misogyny and sexism.

For internationalism, rights of migrants and refugees

Nita is an active campaigner for the rights of refugees.

She will support our members who are not UK citizens and face discrimination on grounds of nationality.

Nita stands for international solidarity. She values international trade union links.