

UCU must put Equality at the heart of campaigning

I am passionate about the importance of education at all levels – not as a commodity or performance to satisfy customers, but as the bedrock of our future society.

As a lecturer in Education and a former schoolteacher, I have made significant contributions to ensure equality is a part of my departmental courses and the professional preparation of our future teachers.

Marketisation is a threat to equality.

Education is under attack, and as marketization bites we are in danger of losing the very basis of our workplace equality gains.

While many educational institutions use 'equality data' in their marketing, the reality for us women is very different, both as students and staff.

The recent outrage over the Presidents' Club dinner has shocked us all, and not least as a terrible example of the effects of poverty on women students.

Sexism on campus is still a serious problem, and women students can also be failed by university leaderships who give more importance to their ratings than to women's safety.

UCU must continue to work with student organisations to expose the growing exploitation of women students and to create safe environments for us all.

Put equality at the heart of our industrial strategy. Staff in education have seen how pay, pensions, casualization and workload all have disproportionate impact on women.

Whether in research, teaching or academic-related posts, in FE, HE, the prison service or adult education, the gender imbalance in pay is deplorable. As a national negotiator, I welcome our strategy of linking gender inequality to our pay claim, offering

all members the opportunity to fight the gender pay gap.

I wholeheartedly support the planned and escalating action in defence of the USS pensions. We must continue to fight the historic gender discrimination in pensions and ensure this is always a key part of our campaigns and strategy.

I am a hard-working UCU activist with over 10 years' experience at local, regional and national level.

I have worked tirelessly to build my branch, developing networks and encouraging members' involvement.

I welcome UCU's initiatives to improve visibility and involvement of BME members. We must use our understanding of intersectionality to strengthen our campaigns.

This must include a rejection of PREVENT and defence of EU nationals: when the door is opened to one type of prejudice, others follow fast.

Recent action shows members' determination and effectiveness.

Recent strike action at Manchester Met and Manchester University showed members' determination to stand up against redundancies – and our effectiveness too.

As a member of UCU Left, I believe UCU has a key role in opposing privatisation and defending education. Equality is not an add-on – it is integral to building the education of the future.

If elected, I commit to raising gender issues from all our diverse sectors, developing campaigns and an industrial agenda to support this.



If elected I will:

- Campaign against threats to equality in the marketization of education and the NSS, working with students wherever possible
- Support action on pensions and pay, highlighting the equality impact
- Campaign against soaring workloads and casualisation, highlighting the effect on women members
- Ensure equality is fundamental to UCU policies, campaigns and industrial strategy
- Continue to build my local branch and region
- Campaign for EU citizens & free movement of labour, highlighting gender issues

Biographical information

- SL in Education at Man Met
- UCU National Negotiator: 2017-present.
- Branch Officer at Man Met since 2005 (Convenor for 10 years+, Secretary for 6 years, Equality Officer currently)
- NW Regional Committee Officer: Secretary 2012-16, Equality Officer 2016-17, Vice Chair currently
- UCU LGBT Members' Standing Committee: 2012-17; UCU Women Members' Standing Committee: 2008-12; 2017-present
- UCU Delegate to NW TUC LGBT Forum
- UCU Delegate to TUC LGBT Conference 5 times; to TUC Women's Conference 2018
- Member of UCU Left.

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
Nita Sanghera

London & East HE
Paul Anderson
Rachel Cohen
Ioanna Ioannou
Sean Wallis

London & East FE
Julia Roberts
Sean Vernell

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
Sunil 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

More election materials can be found at: uculeft.org

Find out more: uculeft.org