

UCU NEC elections: Vote Pura Ariza for LGBT member (Higher Education)

Elections
run from
4 February to
1 March

Putting equality at the heart of a fighting union

Public education is facing the most challenging circumstances for a generation. Education is subject to the biggest funding cuts since the 1950s. While the government is stealing our pensions to pay for their crisis they are also reducing post-16 provision and preventing students from working-class families continuing their education.

This is an attempt to roll back the many gains we have made over decades, including equality gains. In the face of these attacks we need to build a strong trade union to defend not only its members, but also the education we offer.

I have been a campaigning LGBT trade unionist for over 20 years. I am proud to have been part of the movement which won important gains for LGBT people at work and which ensured that LGBT issues are now understood as trade union issues. I have been a committed member of the Women Members Standing Committee and the LGBT Members Standing Committee of the Union over the last four years. I have attended UCU and TUC conferences, am a delegate to NW TUC Equalities Network and helped develop UCU regional networks to further our equality work. I have contributed to formulating the progressive policies on equality which the Union has.

The advances in LGBT rights in education and beyond are considerable, but we cannot be complacent. The government is clearly attempting to roll them back, with broad attacks on equality under the pretence of “cutting



red tape”. As with the proposed changes to education, there are ideologically-motivated, aimed at promoting marketisation and privatisation. In every attack on equality there is a hidden attack on all members’ rights.

Equality is a crucial trade union issue – not a bolt-on extra but an integral part of our campaign work, our industrial relations agenda and our internal structures. UCU has a proud history of equality work, and we must protect our equality provision within UCU structures.

As a supporter of UCU Left I believe UCU must offer a coherent response to the austerity assault we face. Our union must stand up for members’ jobs and pay and for the education we provide. We must resist privatisation and defend education for future generations. Whether it is over pensions, workload intensification, performance management by stealth or erosion of the academic role, we face challenges which have specific equality impacts as well as

consequences for all our members.

As a branch secretary and North West Regional Secretary I have seen how we build a strong union where members are involved in branch campaigns and action, both regionally and nationally, and where every member feels s/he has a role to play. We need a union capable of taking up these challenges and robust enough to offer an alternative and fight for it. Education is the key to the future – we have everything to fight for.

If elected I will:

- Promote a democratic, member-led and accountable union
- Ensure UCU’s equality commitment extends throughout all negotiations and industrial relations agenda
- Ensure equality forms an integral part of vibrant campaigns in defence of jobs, pensions, pay, education, etc
- Campaign against soaring workloads, privatization and marketisation, highlighting how these changes undermine equality gains
- Support proposals from the elected Democracy Commission which protect equality representation and promote member-led democracy and participation within a campaigning union model.

Please also vote for Liz Lawrence for Vice-President and Gavin Reid for Honorary Treasurer.
Liz’s election blog is:
<http://lizlawrence4vp.wordpress.com>

Please vote for the following candidates in the national officer and NEC elections

Vice-President
Elizabeth Lawrence

Honorary Treasurer
Gavin Reid

Honorary Secretary, Scotland
Carlo Morelli

Disabled members
Rob Murthwaite

Black members
Dawn Livingston

LGBT members (HE)
Pura Ariza

UK-elected HE
Paul Blackledge, Adrian Budd, Peter Dwyer, Jeff Fowler, Marion Hersh, Veronica Killen, Gavin Reid, Sean Wallis

UK-elected FE
David Armstrong, Mandy Brown, Alison Lord, Loraine Monk

Midlands FE
Alan Barker, Brian O’Sullivan

North West HE
Eleni Michalopoulou, Jo McNeill

North West FE
Darren Tolliday, Isabel Brotherston

Midlands HE
Ron Mendel, Nicholas Cimini

South HE
Patricia McManus, Ellen Seiss, Lesley Kane

Find out more at www.uculeft.org

STV VOTING SYSTEM

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; and
- Give your highest preferences in the UK-Elected list to UCU Left candidate(s) **from your region**