

UCU NEC BY-ELECTION UK-ELECTED HE SEAT VOTE CHRISTINA PAINE

Ballot opens from 5th September to 2nd October

Secure the casualised to prevent the casualisation of the secure!



I am a very active branch committee officer at London Metropolitan University, despite being on a zero-hours contract, and I am also a member of the London Region Executive Committee.

I am a disabled hourly-paid member and researcher, fully aware of the stresses and indignities of zero-hours and fixed-term contracts. I have campaigned on health and safety, the rights of disabled members (including working with Disabled People Against Cuts), and for the abolition of zero-hours contracts there. You can read more about my activities and why I am a candidate for the NEC here:

Web: christinapaineucu.wordpress.com

Twitter: @ChristinaUCU

Facebook: Christina Paine.

Mobilising casualised members, and the recruitment of their colleagues, are crucial to UCU's future. I want to ensure that edu-

cation workers do not suffer for defending our basic rights. Recently I have supported the campaign against victimisation of UCU members at SOAS, who have been successfully campaigning for better contracts and pay to reflect the hours they actually work. I have also raised support and solidarity for the FE contract strike at Lambeth College.

I have successfully raised these issues in the press (the Guardian, Sunday Times and Times Higher Educational Supplement) and have also served on the UCU Anti-Casualisation Committee and organized activists' groups across London Region.

If elected to the NEC I will fight for decent contracts and conditions for all staff, and seek to unite disparate casualisation campaigns into a national movement. This is not just an issue for post-1992 institutions. Oxford University wants to 'reform' the College Statutes which protect academic staff and in recent years several Russell Group universities, such as King's, Dundee and Warwick, have diluted statutes. Increasingly, permanent academic staff are being identified for redundancy.

HE is being undermined by a corporate management model which sees universities as 'Edu-businesses', students as customers

and staff as exploitable and disposable assets. Critical education is challenged by a government uninterested in equipping students beyond the needs of immediate employment. I support the aims of UCU left to develop a member-led union with a democratic and accountable leadership. If elected I will fight for the interests of all members, including those retired and on casual contracts.

I also believe UCU has a role to play more broadly for a better society. I oppose government scapegoating of migrant and disabled people and will fight such practices. I also believe we should defend other people's access to decent lives and education internationally. The brutal and criminal assault on Gaza by the Israeli Defence Force over the summer, killing nearly 2,000 people, shocked the world. I believe our policy of academic boycott of Israeli institutions should now be stepped up.

Finally, we must unite as a union, and with other unions, to restore our pay and defend our conditions. If we fight back we can win. We must stand up for our statutes, contracts, and the rights they enshrine and uphold academic freedom and our ability to shape our institutions.

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Endorsements

'Christina Paine has, over the past year, tirelessly encouraged and inspired the many of those with whom she has collaborated in addressing inequalities and injustices in higher education.'

Alexis Wearmouth *Fractional Rep (Teaching Fellows), SOAS UCU Executive Committee.*

'I'm very happy to endorse Christina as an NEC candidate. She is an extremely hard-working and committed branch rep who has achieved notable case-work success and has been instrumental in developing our anti-casualisation campaign at London Met. She will be a valuable addition to the NEC.'

Mark Campbell *London Met UCU (chair)*

'I am really pleased to endorse Christina in her candidature for the UCU NEC. She has campaigned systematically and energetically in campaigning for the rights of workers on precarious contracts in higher education. Importantly she has demonstrated that where these workers get organised they can gain in importance and win concessions.'

Professor Jane Hardy, *University of East Anglia*

'I have worked with Christina Paine in her work for the hourly paid academic staff at London Metropolitan University. Christina

has worked tirelessly for this under represented and often misrepresented group of HE employees who in many Universities, including our own, make up half of all academics.

Christina (as an HPL herself) has made a wonderful job of, from one direction representing the HPLs to the management, but more importantly in seeking out the HPLs, often one-by-one and helping them to see how the HE sector exploits their precarious position and how with the support of the union this can change

I have no hesitation in recommending Christina as an excellent candidate for HE member on the NEC.'

Professor Fergus Nicol (HPL), *London Metropolitan University*

'Christina Paine is an indefatigable and courageous defender of the rights of casualised and part-time staff. Her energy and commitment are boundless and her determination to triumph against the considerable forces ranged against her is worthy of deep admiration. Her presence as an NEC Member can only help the fight against zero hour university employment.'

Harvey Shoolman HPL, *London Metropolitan University*

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