## **UCU NEC** elections: Vote Sue Abbott

for Women members (HE)



# TIME TO BREAK THE GENDER PAY GAP

ever have we had such a time where sexism has been at the focus in organisations and in the media. The big issues that we need to tackle in HE are the gender pay gap and eradicating sexual harassment.

I have regularly raised these issues in HEC, NEC and branch meetings. I am extremely concerned about issues of casualization and increasing workloads. These are areas we must urgently address.

I have real concerns about 'lad culture' and believe we must work with the NUS and 1752 group to stop this behaviour.

I organised the first academic conference in the North East in April 2015 to tackle 'lad culture'.

Racism, Islamophobia, homophobia and disability discrimination need examining in the HE sector as an urgent matter. These areas are all priorities for UCU in the foreseeable future.

I voted against acceptance of a derisory pay offer that means that our members face real terms pay cuts, taking inflation into account.

I strongly believe we must defend the USS defined benefits pension against attacks by the employer.

The indicative ballot has shown that UCU members back taking action on this matter. This is a crucial area and unless we oppose changes it will have an adverse effect on women members in particular.



I have been involved in campaigns to tackle anti trade union legislation and the fight against austerity, homelessness and poverty.

I am a supporter of UCU left and back Jeremy Corbyn's leadership of the Labour party. This gives us hope for the future.

I ask you to re-elect me so my experience and commitment to women and work will make a real difference.

### 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

# Biographical details, including service to the union

Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University since September 2016

#### Trade Union service:

- Member of UCU Committee
- Previously Senior Lecturer at Northumbria University since 2005 where I was UCU Equality Officer for 10 years
- I have experience of both pre-92 and post-92 Universities
- Elected on NEC in 2014
- Currently Chair of the Women Members Standing Committee (WMSC) since September 2016 (and previously during 2014/15)
- Northern Region Equality Officer for many years. I organised an anti-bullying event and set up an equality newsletter
- Chaired national WMSC Conferences 2014/2016/2017
- UCU delegation leader to Women's TUC 2014/2016/2017
- Organised a variety of equality events such as events for Black History month, LGBT History month and for Holocaust Memorial day including bringing the Anne Frank exhibition to the North East in 2007
- Member of Show Racism the Red Card committee for 15 years and involved in many anti-racist activities
- Elected on the UCU National Commission on industrial action 2017-2018
- Congress delegate
- UNISON rep and branch officer in local government prior to joining academia

## UCU Left is supporting the following candidates in the NEC elections

**Vice President FE** Nita Sanghera

**London & East HE**Paul Anderson
Rachel Cohen
loanna loannou
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

Find out more: uculeft.org

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.ora