

# Fight back against worsening conditions

**I**n my time as a union rep I have seen the steady corrosion of terms and conditions, matched by an increase in workload and cut after cut in funding to the sector.

There has also been a sustained reduction in pay and although the recent ballot over pay failed to reach the punishing 50% turn out as required by punitive trade union laws, the overall majority vote was in favour of strike action.

This was a clear demonstration of the desire to fight back against years of deteriorating conditions at both FE and HE.

## Uncertainty

Coupled with the uncertainty of Brexit, the hostile environment for migrants, and increasing casualisation with zero hour contracts, issues that have all impacted on the sector, these are uncertain times we live in, leaving members vulnerable to a gamut of issues affecting their health and mental wellbeing.

Disparity in pay within the sector, gender pay differences, inequalities with race and disability are all issues that stem from the rot that is at the core of this government's ideological assault on public services, including the FE Sector.

Unfortunately, these are issues that disproportionately affect women, women who are carers, women who



look after families, women who are on part time and casualised contracts; they create poverty and are responsible for higher rates of mental health issues in women too.

## Arena

The continued dismantling of conditions in FE is something that we all need to battle against, but it takes place within a wider context in which women's and minority rights are still an arena for struggle: sexual harassment, hate crimes against the disabled, trans rights, abortion etc.

As an NEC member for FE in the North West I will guarantee that these issues in FE have a voice at national level and I will work to ensure that voice remains heard.

## Biographical information including service to the union

- I currently teach English at City of Liverpool College having worked here for the past ten years.
- I am at present Committee Secretary, a role I have inhabited for the last four years. I am also UCU North-West Women's Equality Rep, and I have a seat on the Women's Standing Committee.
- As Women's North-West Officer, I was involved in creating a Network day in which members from around the region could meet and discuss a range of topics about equality.
- I have been involved, at a regional level, in a campaign against the victimisation of union reps, and am currently a member of CBC .

## 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 HE**  
Jo McNeill

**Honorary Treasurer**  
Paul Anderson

**Midlands HE**  
Kirsten Forkert  
Nick Hardy

**Midlands FE**  
Allister Mactaggart

**South HE**  
Deepa Govindarajan  
Driver  
Lesley Kane  
Marian Mayer  
Jaya John John

**North West HE**  
Anthony O'Hanlon  
Saira Weiner

**North West FE**  
Carol Cody

**Honorary Secretary UCU Scotland**  
Marion Hersh

**President UCU Scotland**  
Carlo Morelli

**North East HE**  
Bruce Baker

**UK-elected HE**  
Maria Chondrogianni  
Marion Hersh  
Carlo Morelli  
Jo Grady

**UK-elected FE**  
Richard McEwan  
Saleem Rashid

**Disabled members HE**  
Ciara Doyle

**Black members**  
Naina Kent  
Dave Muritu

### 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](http://uculeft.org)

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