

# Why I'm standing

**Election runs from 25 January -1 March**

## Democracy.

UCU needs democratic renewal and a General Secretary committed to implementing democratic decisions our members make.

When members take action they must have control, with branch meetings determining the course of strikes, and national strike committees coordinating across branches.

Branch Delegate Meetings should be run by members with questions agreed democratically, not by HQ.

## Control from below.

The NEC and its subcommittees must implement decisions made through our democratic structures in branches, regions, nations and Congress.

## Strengthen the grassroots.

As GS, I will ensure the democratic decisions of members are followed, seeking to strengthen rank and file involvement. I will not promote surveys with no democratic basis, instead facilitating member led debate and decision making.

## Transparency and accountability.

Decisions of leadership bodies are too often kept from members on spurious grounds, citing "confidentiality". I will make sure our existing policy that says voting records and meeting minutes should be made public is enacted.

## Trusting members.

The top-down culture has to change. I will encourage involvement by implementing the decisions you make. I will visit branches and regions and hold regular all-member online meetings

## Vote Saira Weiner for Women members



**Senior Lecturer in Education Studies at LJMU (2013-). n. LJMU branch secretary 2018- NW Region HE Chair / Vice Chair 2019- UCU NEC Women's Rep (HE) 2014-2016 Chair Women's Standing Committee 2015-2016 UCU NEC North West Rep (HE) 2019-2023 Chair ROCC 2022-2023 I'm disabled, Jewish, anti-racist, socialist, and Pro-Palestinian.**

to hear and discuss your views.

As GS I will accept the average wage for UCU members. The rest will go to branch disputes, refugee organisations and other causes, clearly recorded and available for scrutiny.

The UK's Conservative Government seeks to blame refugees and migrants, LGBT+ people (especially our trans siblings), Black people, and other racialised groups for the continuing crises that drive people into poverty and destroy our planet.

Our NHS and education systems are woefully underfunded. And

there's more repression coming with new laws against unions, strikes and protests. We can't go on like this.

Starmer's Labour is completely failing to oppose this offensive. Unions are the only real opposition building resistance, for example calling the most strike days in Britain since 1989 and the wave of solidarity for Palestine.

## Lasting Change

I'm offering fundamental root-and-branch change in how UCU operates and how the leadership is held accountable. I want to be part of a movement for change.

Despite the amazing commitment of our members, the national union has too often left members isolated and without sufficient support.

It's sometimes said that UCU members are tired from industrial action. Actually it's being let down that we are tired of.

I want people to vote for me. But it won't be enough to change the top officials: we need to encourage and promote grassroots organisation and initiatives.

We need a UCU that is democratic, fights for its members, and wins.

We have won important victories. Hard hitting industrial action reversed cuts to USS pensions. UCU Left was proved right in arguing that a full return of benefits lost ("no detriment") could be won.

🌐 Website

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**For more information about the UCU Left platform and candidates**  
<https://uculeft.org/ucu-elections-2024>