



CATHERINE MCKINNELL MP JOINS THE BRANCH FOR HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

UCU Branch Newsletter

February 2018

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT ...

CONTRACT WINS!!!

Members of the Adults Maths and English Team now have the option to sign preferential contract!

In May 2017 new contracts were introduced which the Maths and English Central Team could apply for – with better Pay, Terms and Conditions to existent contracts. The Adults Team were excluded from these contracts unless they chose to move across to the Central Team.

UCU argued for parity for work of equal value and raised this argument at local and Group level.

UCU's Northern Region Official, Iain Owens said ***"This has been a slog over the last 8 months and the tenacity of branch officers is to be praised in keeping up the pressure and not backing down. The decision reached was the right outcome."***



Lessons Learned

Branch Secretary Anya Cook writing for UCU's Transforming Lives Project *further education: learning hope*
<http://transforminglives.web.ucu.org.uk/2018/01/09/lessons-learned-2/>



UCU's campaign for Better Pay and Better Jobs

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/fepayengland>

BRANCH ACTIVITY

WORKLOAD

The Branch will go out to the Membership again to capture the picture – we know what the temperature is but we need a portfolio of current case studies. Workloads are massive for some and a number of Members have been affected, have taken time off work, have left the organisation or are looking for alternative employment.

PROGRESSION COACHES

UCU's formal meeting with the Principalship took place in January and a follow-up meeting has been arranged for early February. Any updates will follow.

POLICIES

The Branch has consulted on 3 Group Policies this last month.

ANTI-CASUALISATION

Employees on hourly paid contracts are the most vulnerable group of staff. UCU campaigns against this at Regional and National levels. This UCU Branch and UCU at Group level have worked closely with the HR team over the last year to develop their project around this issue. TBC

PAY

The official pay talks between UCU and NCG have been deferred.

The last time NCG had a pay rise was agreed in 2014 and effected in January 2015 as 1% and non-consolidated.

12 UCU FE branches are currently balloting for strike action over pay. For more information www.ucu.org.uk/fepayengland

"I believe that no one in our sector can be pleased at the plight of pay for college staff [which] is now 21.5% lower in real terms than it was in 2009."
(Andrew Harden, UCU Head of FE)



Catherine McKinnell MP

"Learning Lessons from History"

"Thank you to the UCU Branch for inviting me to speak at this powerful event – the students were really engaged – and I learned so much."

The Power of Words was the theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day and the Branch hosted an event.

Neil Gow stepped in and delivered Jamie Dickinson's presentation (due to a family bereavement) on why young people are so important in the work of the Holocaust Education Trust and with memories of his grandfather returning from The War, set a poignant tone for the rest of the event.

Branch Secretary Anya Cook explored the role of educators in challenging hate crime and discrimination; suggesting ways to do this.

Catherine McKinnell MP for Newcastle North went with the Holocaust Education Trust and 200 young people from across the North East to Auschwitz and Birkenau 2 years ago. Catherine talked about the importance of speaking out against intolerance.

UCU Elections 2018

It's that time of year again when UCU votes for its elected Leadership and Ballot Papers will be arriving through your letterbox in early February and the Ballot runs from 1 February to 1 March.

The next UCU vice president (2018-19) will be from the Further Education sector. That person will then become President-Elect 2019-20 and then President of the whole union 2020-21

The person you elect to lead UCU will be either **Nita Sanghera** from Bournville College or **Brian Hamilton** from NOVUS prisons. Read their election addresses and cast your votes accordingly.



Whoever you vote for, it is most important that you do vote.