

UCU campaigns update: 05 February 2016

Dear colleague

In this week's campaigns update:

- 1. Check your pay with Rate for the Job**
- 2. End workplace racism now: UCU day of action, 10 February**
- 3. In the news**
- 4. Staff to strike in further education colleges on 24 February**
- 5. Workload issues – tell us your views**
- 6. TUC #heartunions week 8-14 February 2016**
- 7. Race equality and higher education access**
- 8. Develop your career with UCU**
- 9. 'Cradle to Grave' public education conference**
- 10. Financial advice for UCU members**
- 11. Your vote is your voice – voter registration drive**
- 12. UCU officer and national executive committee elections 2016 - ballots now open**
- 13. Events and publications**

1. Check your pay with Rate for the Job

We think it's time for debate about what constitutes fair pay in colleges and universities and that's why this week we launched [a free online tool, 'Rate for the Job'](#), which allows you to compare your salary to similar staff and to see how your real pay has been affected by recent below inflation pay rises. Already over 13,000 of you have checked your pay using the site – please share this with colleagues and use the social media buttons [on the 'Rate for the Job' site](#).

2. End workplace racism now: UCU day of action, 10 February

Next Wednesday 10 February the union is holding [a day of action against workplace racism](#) to coincide with the launch of a special short film and an important report into the experiences of black staff in post school education. Both [The Guardian](#) and [TES](#) reported on our research that shows racism and discrimination persist in colleges and universities.

3. In the news

- High levels of discrimination in universities and colleges
- UK's least transparent universities named and shamed
- David Cameron wades into university admissions row
- Strike date for English colleges in pay row
- Strike suspended at Open university

[Read all about it here](#).

4. Staff to strike in further education colleges on 24 February

Further education members in English colleges will be taking strike action on 24 February and are joined on the picket lines by UNISON members in a dispute over pay. The employers' representatives, the Association of Colleges have recommended a pay freeze for college staff despite real-terms pay cuts of 17.1% in the last five years. [More details here](#) and please [get in touch with your branch](#) to find out how you can get involved in the campaign.

5. Workload issues – tell us your views

We know that workload is a serious issue for all education staff and UCU member Dr Adam Price has written [an article on the problem of long working hours at his university](#). If you haven't yet completed our [national workload survey then please click here](#) and you will also go into a prize draw for a £100 shopping voucher.

6. TUC #heartunions week 8-14 February 2016

Next week UCU will be joining the trade union movement for a celebration <http://heartunions.org/> of the fantastic work done by union reps and members and highlighting opposition to the government's draconian Trade Union Bill. UCU is kicking off the #heartunions week with our sell-out 'Cradle to Grave' public education conference in London tomorrow addressed by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and a fantastic panel of speakers. Watch this space for a film of the event coming

soon.

Events are taking place across the union including [a joint union social event and meeting at the University of Manchester](#) and at Solihull College where members are using the week as an opportunity to engage with students about what a trade union is and why it's important to join one.

Tell us why you love unions by [posting on our Facebook page](#) and the best entries will win a special 'heartunions' badge and pen.

7. Race equality and higher education access

Following the Prime Minister's recent comments on university admissions the union has responded with [this piece from UCU's Angela Nartey, advocating post-qualification application](#).

8. Develop your career with UCU

The union's continuing professional development (CPD) programme continues to go from strength to strength, with members across the UK benefitting from high quality training free of charge.

Places are available on the following CPD courses:

[Leadership in education](#) – Cambridge, 11 February

[Mentoring](#) – Cambridge, 11 February

9. Financial advice for UCU members

UCU provides a range of financial services along with other membership benefits and we are pleased to announce that we have just signed a contract with the Lighthouse Group to provide financial advice to members. [More here](#).

10. Your vote is your voice – voter registration drive

With huge numbers of potential voters – particularly younger people – likely to fall off the electoral register, UCU is supporting [Bite the Ballot's](#) national voter registration drive and [they have produced this resource](#) aimed at helping educators encourage democratic participation amongst students. See here for more details of [our joint campaign with NUS to encourage voter registration](#).

11. UCU officer and national executive committee elections 2016 - ballots now open

UCU's national elections are now open and members will have begun to receive ballot material this week. All members are encouraged to vote. Further information about the elections, including election addresses for all candidates, [can be found here](#).

12. Events and publications

Getting involved in UCU – a course for black members new to activism

This one day course is specifically designed for UCU black members who are interested in becoming more involved with UCU. The course will also include a professional development session about leadership. For more details and to check entry criteria [please use this link](#).

Second convention for higher education 27 February 2016

UCU is supporting a one-day conference on the HE green paper on Saturday 27 February at University College London. [For more information and to register for the convention, see here](#).

Defending further and adult education conference, 5 March 2016

This initiative taken by London Region UCU will discuss how we can build a movement to defend the sector and put forward alternatives to the government's cuts agenda. SOAS, central London, Saturday 5 March, 10:30am. [Register here](#).

LGBT history month – February

Voices and Visibility: [download the wallchart from here](#). Thursday 25 February, a workshop to facilitate effective use of the wallchart and associated materials in teaching and training. [To register see here](#).

'Not quite so simple: living on an intersection' Manchester, 20 May 2016

UCU is supporting the Forum in organising an LGBT+ research and practice conference exploring stories and issues related to identity, intersectionality and multiple oppression. [Online registration closes on Monday 9 May](#). Call for contributions is [open until 11 February here](#).

Action against violence against women and girls

International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed on 6 February. FGM or cutting has been a criminal offence since 1985 and recent figures published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre show that some 2,421 instances of mutilation were reported from April–September 2015. Despite this high number, there has yet to be a successful prosecution in the UK. Please read our [equality Q&A session with a domestic violence and anti-bullying coordinator on FGM](#) or [download our branch guidance on action against violence against women](#).

All the best

Justine Stephens
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