

# UCU NEC elections: vote Marion Hersh for UK-elected HE

# Higher education is a right, not a privilege

Election runs from 1 February - 1 March

## My vision of education

I am passionate about and totally committed to (Higher) Education. Our contribution as teachers, researchers and academic related staff to the development of individuals and society as a whole is invaluable.

This should be recognised with job security, decent pay and pensions and work-life balance.

Academic freedom in research and teaching, and adequate funding through taxation with education free to all students, are fundamental to this vision.

HE is essential to society and should be open to everyone, not a privilege for an elite group of the superrich.

We need to campaign for the abolition of the Research and Teaching 'Excellence' Frameworks (REF and TEF) and to ensure their results are not used to threaten jobs, close departments and restrict academic freedom.

HE must not become an elite activity for the few, with students as customers and knowledge as a commodity.

## Equality and anti-casualisation

Casualisation and discrimination, bullying and harassment of women, black, LGBT+, disabled and other members undermine and threaten us all.

I am using my role of UCU Scotland Equality office to promote the equality and anti-casualisation aspects of the pay and equality dispute, including equality aspects of excessive workloads, to get the vote out.

I have been on the Equality Committee for several years and am involved in the disabled members' and LGBT networks, as well as actively supporting Black members and campaigns against casualisation.



I regularly attend the Scottish TUC Disabled members and LGBT+ conferences where I have successfully proposed motions on disability and refugees, Prevent, LGBT+ equality and international campaigns.

## Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) disputes

As a USS negotiator I was instrumental in the transformation in UCU, particularly through ensuring we did not settle too early, believing in members and our ability to take action and always pushing for the best deal for members.

I continue to work on ethical and sustainable pensions and making USS communications fully accessible.

We won a great victory, but will need to be ready for another ballot and further industrial action if necessary. I believe that when we fight and do not give up too early we can win both nationally and locally.

## Activist and campaigner

I am a lifelong anti-racist, anti-fascist and campaigner against war and for social justice. I juggle campaigning inside and outside UCU with a full-time job as a senior lecturer in Engineering at

Glasgow University.

I have successfully proposed action to NEC, Congress and HE Sector Conference on e.g. TU Bill, supporting EU and international staff, pensions and victimised reps.

I have participated in many campaigns and lobbies against job losses, department closures and victimisation.

At Glasgow I organised a women's group, am an active member of the local committee, and have participated in successful campaigns to save the Crichton Campus and against redundancies. I represent UCU on the Scottish TUC LGBT+ Committee.

## Wider campaigning

UCU must continue to campaign alongside other unions, students and anti-cuts groups on wider political fronts. We are part of campaigns against global warming, war, Trident, UKIP and dismantling the NHS. We are for the rights of disabled people and refugees, social justice and a million climate/green jobs.

## 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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