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1. UCU Equality Scheme

All UCU regional committees have been asked to submit three action points for inclusion in UCU's Equality Scheme. These should be sent to Sharon Russell no later than **8 February**. For more information about the development of the scheme, please see

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4137>

2. New Guidance from UCU

A number of pieces of advice and guidance for UCU branches have been published recently which can be accessed from the UCU web site:

UCU guidance on violence against women

Domestic violence is a workplace issue! UCU has produced guidance for branch officers assisting members suffering from domestic violence. Having a workplace policy on domestic violence helps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of staff members and may ultimately reduce and prevent the extent of domestic abuse experienced. If staff are fully supported it improves the work environment as stress and absenteeism is minimised. The guidance booklet provides advice about drafting and negotiating a workplace policy. Copies can be downloaded from the website

http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/pdf/2/1/violence_against_women.pdf or you can obtain a hard copy by contacting Charlotte Nielsen: cnielsen@ucu.org.uk Posters are also available from Charlotte.

Aston UCU recently launched a policy on domestic violence and we are keen to hear from other branches who have either already written up a policy or are considering doing so. Please tell us about it by contacting Charlotte Nielsen in the Equality Unit:

cnielsen@ucu.org.uk

HIV in the workplace – a guide for branches

This resource presents current (2009) information about HIV and AIDS. The resource gives advice to UCU branches about how to ensure supportive conditions in the workplace for

people living and working with HIV. It is available at:

https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/pdf/g/6/ucu_hivguidance_nov09.pdf

Disability equality

This guidance document contains information about the disability equality duty and revision of disability equality schemes. It also includes the new national agreement for FE colleges on disability equality including disability leave agreements.

https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/docs/4/r/ucu_disabilityequalitybriefing_nov09.doc

Developing sexual orientation equality

UCU's Equality Unit has published a report on the progress being made in FE and HE on developing sexual orientation equality. It is available at

http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/pdf/j/l/ucu_sexualorientationequality.pdf

3. Ofsted's Single Equality Scheme: have your say

Ofsted is currently preparing its first single equality scheme to replace its existing three schemes (disability equality, race equality and gender equality) and is currently consulting on the draft scheme, which will be finalised and published along with a detailed action plan in April 2010. The consultation closes on Friday 12 March 2010. There will be three involvement and consultation events across England throughout the consultation period. If you would like to get involved, you can take part by:

- accessing the consultation document online at www.ofsted.gov.uk/consultations, or
- joining one of the consultation seminars across England:

- 27 January 2010, 1pm to 4.30pm, London
Holborn Bars (DeVere Venue), 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2NQ
- 16 February 2010, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Newcastle
Newcastle College, Rye Hill Campus, Scotswood Road, Newcastle NE4 7SA
- 12 March 2010, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Birmingham
Birmingham Metropolitan College, Matthew Boulton campus, B4 7PS

For further information about the events or to book your place, please email

sesconsultation@ofsted.gov.uk.

4. Disability Access Resources

The TUC has now set up a web list of providers of resources for disability access such as sign language interpreters, Braille transcribers, disability equality training (etc.): go to

www.tuc.org.uk/disabilityresources <http://www.tuc.org.uk/equality/tuc-17375-f0.cfm>

This list is also available in Word format. If you would like a copy, please email jpantland@ucu.org.uk

5. UCU Equality Reps Training

There are still places available on the new course for UCU equality reps in:

- **Manchester: 10 Feb 2010 & 14 May 2010**
- **Glasgow: 8 Apr 2010 & 11 June 2010**

More information is available at <https://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=4093> . All branches are encouraged to send their equality officer or another branch officer to one of the courses.

6. Events

UCU LGBT History Month Conference

20th February 2010 is the date for the annual UCU LGBT history month conference. It will be held at Manchester Metropolitan University. Entitled 'The Way We Were? The Way We Are?' the conference will focus on historical developments in LGBT organising and current developments in research. Delegates will have the opportunity to discuss thoughts raised by input on the day and contribute to a strategic approach towards UCU's work on sexual orientation and gender identity equality. For more information and to register for a place please contact eqadmin@ucu.org.uk

DEIG Conference

The LLUK-supported Disability Equality Implementation Group's conference, organised by NIACE, is on Friday 5 February 2010 in London. At the conference Disability Equality Implementation Group will be involving disabled staff and others in lifelong learning in shaping its future strategic direction and activity. The keynote speaker is Tim Cooper, Director of the Office for Disability Issues, who will address the lifelong learning disability equality agenda in the context of wider strategic disability issues. For full details go to: <http://www.niace.org.uk/campaigns-events/events/transforming-your-organisation-through-equality-for-disabled-staff>

UAF Conference

Unite Against Fascism is holding its annual national conference on Saturday 13 February at the TUC Congress Centre in central London. This will be a crucial event for everyone who opposes the fascist British National Party and wants to prevent it from making gains at the

next general and local elections. It will also be a focus for all those resisting the rise of racist anti-Muslim groups such as the English Defence League. For full details and to register go to: <http://www.uaf.org.uk/news.asp?choice=91217>

NUT Holocaust Memorial Day Event

The NUT's Holocaust Memorial Day Event will take place on Monday 1 February from 5-7.30pm. This event will also pay tribute to LGBT History Month. The event is free and open to all. For further details and to register go to <http://www.nut.org.uk/node/8687>

Ovarian Cancer Action

March is Ovarian Cancer Action month and the TUC is working with Ovarian Cancer Action on raising awareness and providing increased support for those women diagnosed with this disease. Leaflets and posters can be downloaded at:

<http://www.ovarian.org.uk/index.asp>.

Get involved

If you would like to join one of our networks, please send an email to egadmin@ucu.org.uk stating your preferred email address along with the name of the network you would like to join. You should note that these networks are not discussion forums, but that you will be sent information relating to the area of equality. The networks available for joining are:

Black Members Network
Women Members Network
LGBT Members Network
Disabled Members Network