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### 1. UCU Equality Conferences

There is still time to register for the UCU Women Members annual conference on 14 November and the LGBT members' annual conference on 15 November. The conferences will take place at the UCU Conference Centre in London, from 10.30-4.30. There will be a mixture of motions from branches, speakers and workshops. For more information visit the UCU website: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2701>

### 2. Becoming or Unbecoming? One day conference

This one day conference is for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) academics, researchers and activists, plus heterosexuals conducting research on LGBT issues. It takes place on 28 November '08 from 10.00am – 4.00pm at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne. The fee is £35 (cheques payable to University and College Union). Applications to: Dr Andrew Mullen, Politics and History Division, Lipman Building, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST.

### 3. TUC Equality seminars

The last few years have seen an increase in the amount and complexity of equality issues at work. It has been difficult for hard pressed union officers to keep up with current developments and handle the increasing amount of equality issues in the workplace. To help officers with this task, the TUC have organised a seminar in each region to update union professionals on the latest developments in the new Equalities Bill and the TUC Equality Reps project.

Sally Brett, TUC Equality Policy Officer will run the session on the Equalities Bill Update and Theresa Daly, TUC Equality Reps Project Co-ordinator will lead the session on the Equality reps training and the developments in unions for equality reps. The equality rep training materials will also be available at the seminars.

Seminars will be taking place on the following dates/locations:

- **12th November – 10.00 – 12.30 - Scotland** at STUC, John Smith House, 145-165 West regent St ,Glasgow G2 4RZ, to register contact Harry Cunningham at [hcunningham@tuc.org.uk](mailto:hcunningham@tuc.org.uk)

If you would like to attend one of the seminars please contact the relevant TUC regional office by e mail or write to the regional TUC office using the address given.

#### **4. Campaigners lose key stage in compulsory retirement battle**

Campaigners for age equality have lost a key stage in their legal battle to banish the compulsory retirement age in the UK.

Age Concern had gone to the European court of justice in Luxembourg to argue that compelling people to stop work at or after 65 without compensation breaches EU equality requirements.

However the charity's claim was rejected by the advocate-general on 23 September.

For the UCU press release statement on this, go to:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3495&from=3470>



#### **5. White ribbon campaign – eradicate violence against women**

The TUC is supporting the "White Ribbon" campaign, which emphasises the need for men to work with women to condemn and eradicate violence against women. The White Ribbon Campaign in the UK has promoted this primarily by doing activity with football clubs. Trade union women in the Midlands last year worked with local football clubs to do some very successful events around White ribbon day. It is something that other regions may also be interested in taking part in or developing within their area. If colleagues are interested in making direct contact with the Campaign, the contact details are:

Email: [info@whiteribboncampaign.co.uk](mailto:info@whiteribboncampaign.co.uk)

Web: <http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk/>

#### **6. TUC guide on disability leave**

Sickness Absence and Disability Discrimination Employers continue to use sickness absence procedures to get rid of disabled workers. Following a seminar on this subject in April 2008, the TUC now publishes advice for union negotiators on the law and good practice in dealing with disability-related absences from work, and proposes disability leave agreements as part of the solution. <http://www.tuc.org.uk/equality/tuc-15361-f0.cfm>

## 7. Visible and valued – DVD launch

Visible and Valued is a unique training DVD created for use in the further education system. It supports learning providers to take a well considered, practical approach to delivering sexual orientation equality. View a taster at:

[www.centreforexcellence.org.uk/visibleandvalued](http://www.centreforexcellence.org.uk/visibleandvalued)

There will be a launch event at UCU Conference Centre, 27 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JP on 21 November from 10.00-16.00. Bookings online at

[www.centreforexcellence.org.uk/visible08](http://www.centreforexcellence.org.uk/visible08)

## 8. Leading sexual orientation policy

Leading sexual orientation policy is an innovative leadership programme that offers participants the opportunity to develop leadership skills and expertise in making sexual orientation equality integral to organisational culture, policy and practice. This four-day programme, in two blocks of two days take place on the following dates:

4-5 December 2008	London
15-16 January 2009	London
29-30 January 2009	Manchester
19-20 March 2009	Manchester

For further information and to book a place, contact Centre for Excellence in Leadership via

Email: [equalities@centreforexcellence.org.uk](mailto:equalities@centreforexcellence.org.uk)

Website: [www.centreforexcellence.org.uk](http://www.centreforexcellence.org.uk)

## 9. Get in touch

To contact the Equality Unit for more information about anything in this email, please use the following contacts:

**Administrative matters and disability (interim):** Pauline Bartlett – [pbartlett@ucu.org.uk](mailto:pbartlett@ucu.org.uk) 020 7837 3636 ext 3227

**Age, gender identity and sexual orientation:** Seth Atkin – [satkin@ucu.org.uk](mailto:satkin@ucu.org.uk) 020 7837 3636

**Gender:** Charlotte Nielsen – [cnielsen@ucu.org.uk](mailto:cnielsen@ucu.org.uk) 020 7837 3636 ext 3227

**Race and religion/belief:** Chris Nicholas – [cnicholas@ucu.org.uk](mailto:cnicholas@ucu.org.uk) 020 7837 3636 ext 3273