



UCU Congress 2019

Fringe meetings and social events

All events (other than Congress dinner) take place at the Congress venue, the Harrogate Convention Centre.

All lunchtime fringe meetings take place in meeting rooms in the Queen's Suite which can be accessed by routes from Hall D or Studios 1 and 2.

Friday 24 May - evening

Get ahead - early registration

Hall D 16:30-19:30

Delegates in Harrogate on Friday 24 May should register at the Congress venue. You will receive your name badge, without which there is no entry to the Congress hall. Voting cards and bound agendas will also be distributed at registration. The main entrance (entrance 1 to the Harrogate Convention Centre) is accessed from Kings Road, next to the Crowne Plaza hotel.

Congress: Introduction for new delegates

Queen's Suite, meeting room 7, 18:00-19:00

Chaired by Alan Barker, Chair of Congress Business Committee

Join members of the Congress Business Committee for a friendly overview of Congress: how it works, the role of the business committee, what happens on the floor when motions are debated and voted on - the process and procedure behind the politics. New delegates are particularly welcome.

Welcome reception

Level 5 (accessed from Entrance 1/level 4 foyer area) 19:00-20:00

Delegates are warmly invited to attend a welcome reception in the Congress venue. This is an opportunity for members to relax and network over a glass of wine. With welcome by UCU President Vicky Knight.

Fringe meetings, Saturday 25 May, 13:00-14:00

All lunchtime fringe meetings take place in the Queen's Suite.

Getting the vote out: organising to beat the 50% ballot threshold

Meeting room 2

The union's power in the workplace stems from our ability to persuade members to participate actively in our activity. The Tory ballot threshold of 50% was designed to weaken unions but one of its perverse consequences has been to give unions the opportunity to create powerful mandates for change when they breach the threshold. This fringe discusses the organising issues that GTVO presents: looking at examples of best practice; common obstacles; and how to integrate the principles of GTVO into branches' wider work.

Resisting the right in Latin America: solidarity with the people of Brazil

Meeting room 6

Across Latin America, workers' rights, public education and equality are under assault from far-right and neo-liberal regimes.

Come and hear about recent developments – and resistance - in both Brazil and Argentina and discuss how UCU members can build solidarity.

Speakers include:

- Julia Felmanas, Brazil Solidarity Initiative
- Bert Schouwenburg, Action for Argentina (AfA UK)

Trade Union Clear Air Network (TUCAN)

Meeting room 1

A key campaign for UCU this coming year is the launch and roll out of the trade union clean air network (TUCAN), with trade union allies, community and environmental organisations. UCU is a founding member of TUCAN. The network supports local air quality and clean air campaigns and the TUCAN Charter provides a framework for unions to campaign for the health and environmental concerns of workers.

Speakers: Graham Petersen (Greener Jobs Alliance), Janet Newsham and Hilda Palmer (Hazards Campaign).

Academic related, professional staff informal fringe

Meeting room 5

Join members of the academic related, professional staff committee and other ARPS activists for an informal discussion on the work the committee plans to undertake in the next few months.

Fringe meetings, Saturday 25 May, 18:00-19:30

Policy and campaigns reception

Level 5 (accessed from main entrance area)

Please join us for drinks, nibbles and the all-important Congress T-shirt at our annual policy and campaigns fringe.

Fringe meetings, Sunday 26 May, 13:00-14:00

All lunchtime fringe meetings take place in the Queen's Suite.

Maternity rights and the casualised

Meeting room 1

Apparently, people appreciate the flexibility of being casualised:

"Now I'm pregnant, I'm glad I don't have to commit to my job, in case I need to take more time off for check-ups and things."

This flexibility is often used against members and they're prevented from taking full maternity rights and benefits.

How do we tackle casualisation and maternity? What are the issues members and reps face? What demands should we be putting in our campaign?

The importance of workplace anti-bullying and stress awareness for mental health

Meeting room 2

The problems of occupational stress and bullying in UK post-16 education are well-documented and Congress resolutions over the years have called on UCU to take action to tackle these problems. In a recent survey, it was reported that 94% of staff at Nottingham Trent University say that workload impacts on their mental health and alongside this, bullying can affect all staff from all backgrounds. Come along and discuss UCU's approach to effectively tackling these issues.

CLASS report launch: re-imagining further and higher education, policies for an alternative future

Meeting room 6

In this session we will discuss ideas, policies and politics for radical transformative change in further and higher education. Labour's commitment to a National Education Service provides the opportunity to change what education is and how we organise it. Our report is written with the aim of opening up the politics and policy of the world of education to a new transformative politics. This is a discussion for all of us, come and join the debate.

Fringe meetings, Sunday 26 May, 13:00-14:00 continued

Using social media and digital campaigns to progress equality

Meeting room 7

Using social media and digital campaigns to progress equality has become ever more urgent. Devika Ranjan, University of Cambridge will share the development of the app 'End everyday racism' which is assisting in monitoring and responding to racism. Riz Hussain, TUC Social Media Policy Officer will give top tips on getting your message across on social media effectively, using challenging sexual harassment as one example. The fringe will also discuss possible access issues for disabled users.

Adult and community education get-together

Meeting room 5

If you work in adult and community education, please join us for this informal get-together to discuss how we can organise and recruit more effectively in the sector.

Social Event: Sunday 26 May, from 19:30

Congress dinner with drinks reception

Majestic Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate, HG1 2HU

Drinks will be served from 19:30, with dinner at approximately 20:30 in the Ballroom, followed by a disco in the Carriage Suite.

Note: *Delegates must register in advance for this event and were asked to do so as part of their online registration. Please bring your dinner ticket with you.*

If a delegate cancels their dinner attendance less than 2 week prior to the event, UCU will not pay for evening meal expenses for the evening of 26 May.

