



## **National Equality Groups Conference 2024**

**Motions for debate (Disabled)**

**Thursday 28 November**

## **Extract from Standing Orders relating to motions**

**Standing Orders 2.6 state that** 'Resolutions passed at annual equality conferences will be advisory. They will be submitted to the National Executive Committee, together with any advice and recommendations from the Equality and Standing Committees, and a copy of the draft minutes of the annual conferences.

Conference is hereby requested to debate and vote on the following motions.

Votes on motions will be by show of voting cards issued at the registration desk. Please see staff at the registration desk if you have misplaced your voting card.

5 motions have been received.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Southern RMB	Opposing Cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance
2	Disabled Members' Standing Committee/City of Bristol College	SEND – Special Educational Needs
3	Disabled Members' Standing Committee//City of Bristol College	Assisted Suicide
4	Disabled Members' Standing Committee/City of Bristol College	DisabledPeopleDemand our rightful participation in the rebuilding of our society
5	University of Leeds	Mitigating transmissible disease risks

<b>Motion 1</b>	<b>Opposing Cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance</b>
<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Southern RMB</b>
<b>Word count</b>	<b>145</b>

Conference deplores the Government's decision to make major cuts to the pensioners winter fuel allowance, without consultation and without undertaking any kind of impact assessment. Millions of now ineligible low-income pensioners will struggle to keep warm and many, whose disabilities or long-term health conditions require extra heating, will be put at risk.

When the Prime Minister defended these cuts by saying that he would not resile from making 'tough decisions', he appeared to wear the immiseration of vulnerable older people as a badge of honour. The Government's approach of managing a major financial challenge by hitting soft targets, while leaving wealthy individuals and corporations untouched, repeats the appalling 2010 austerity policies imposed by the Cameron/Osborne Conservative government.

Conference calls on the NEC to make common cause with older people's voluntary groups and with other trades unions in campaigning for the reversal of these unacceptable cuts.

<b>Motion 2</b>	<b>SEND – Special Educational Needs</b>
<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Disabled Members' Standing Committee</b>
<b>Word count</b>	<b>170</b>

This Conference wishes to express its deep concerns and anger at the ongoing SEND crisis, which impacts staff, disabled students and parents of disabled students.

Conferences notes that:

- The workloads of teachers and lecturers in undertaking the SEND Assessments have almost doubled in the last few years.
- Students are not receiving the support they require, if any, in a timely fashion, due to delayed assessments and lack of funding for education, health care plans
- Educators are being denied the opportunity to provide quality learning experience to their students with additional needs.
- The cost of undertaking the assessment and resourcing plans is placing an intolerable burden on local authority finances.

Conference calls on the General Secretary and the NEC to work with other trade unions and the Local Government Association to:

1. Lobby the Government to increase the funding for undertaking and implementing SEND plans
2. Review the support for students with additional needs to ensure that they receive/ can access a fully supported quality learning experience.

<b>Motion 3</b>	<b>Assisted Suicide</b>
<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Disabled Members' Standing Committee</b>
<b>Word count</b>	<b>132</b>

This Conference notes

- The introduction of the Assisted Dying Bill into Parliament, which would be better described as the Assisted Suicide Bill
  - That there has been no public consultation with disabled people and disability groups whatsoever
- That during the COVID-19 pandemic, Disabled people were unjustly subjected to Do Not Resuscitate orders without their consent
- That the views of disabled people, who are most likely to be the victims of assisted suicide, have to be heard and given due weight

This Conference calls on the General Secretary and NEC to support the calls from DDPOs for:

- Kim Leadbeater MP to withdraw her bill to allow a more thorough and comprehensive examination of all the issues around assisted suicide.
- A Royal Commission to report before any legislation is introduced

**Motion 4                      DisabledPeopleDemand our rightful participation in the rebuilding of our society**

**Proposer                      Disabled Members' Standing Committee**

**Word count                  149**

This Conference urges the UCU NEC and the General Secretary to call on the new Labour Government to incorporate the demands of the Disabled People's Manifesto into UK law, including:

1. Incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into UK law
2. Establishing an inquiry into benefits-related deaths.
3. Bring into force all provisions of the Equality Act, including socio-economic duty
4. Ensuring that BSL signing is available at all public statements and events organised by the government and through Access to Work.
5. Committing to co-production in all policy areas with groups "of and for disabled people"
6. A fully integrated, fully accessible, affordable, publicly owned transport system for all
7. A national requirement for all new build homes to be accessible and 10% to be wheelchair accessible
8. An election fund to support reasonable adjustments for Disabled candidates at local and national elections.

**Motion 5                      Mitigating transmissible disease risks**

**Proposer                      University of Leeds**

**Word count                  145**

Conference notes:

1. Air quality in UK workplaces and institutions is rarely mitigated
2. Airborne transmission of diseases including SARS-CoV-2
3. Concerning emergent trends in health, socio-economic, and educational impacts of Covid-19 and sequelae
4. Clean indoor air benefits everyone

Conference believes:

1. Failures in UK public health imperil health and lives disproportionately impact minoritised communities
2. This does not absolve employers of health and safety responsibilities

Conference calls on UCU to:

1. Consult with advocacy and affected patient groups (including Hazards, Doctors in Unite) to embed best practice structural mitigations to reduce disease transmission and pollutants in UCU workplaces and organising spaces, including:
  - a. ventilation, mechanical air filtration
  - b. CO2 monitoring
  - c. Supporting & providing resources for hybrid working and events, frequently reviewing practice to maximise inclusion
2. Demand post-16 education employers follow suit
3. Improve UCU training and guidance on transmissible diseases and chronic variable conditions including Long Covid, ME/CFS
4. Actively campaign for Covid-19 occupational disease recognition