Meeting of: Equality Conference Black Members

Location: Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3BB

Date Friday 30th November 2018

Unconfirmed minutes

Present:
Eiman Abdel Meguid Queens University Belfast
Saeed Abuzour Manchester Metropolitan University
Umran Ali University of Salford
Naseem Anwar University of Strathclyde
Jason Arday Roehampton University
Gursewak Aulakh City College Plymouth
Avik Banerjee University of St Mark & St John
Gargi Bhattacharyya University of East London
Kusminder Chahal Coventry University
James Chambers Central Group HE South
Dharmannder Chuhan Sandwell College of FHE
Daphne Cunningham University of Oxford
Rohit Dasgupta Loughborough University
Stephen Desmond Southampton Solent University
Delmena Doyley Croydon College
Amanda Egbe University of Bedfordshire
Dulini Fernando University of Warwick
Kirsten Forkert Birmingham City University
Syisha Francis Sandwell College of FHE
Allan Gopal London South Bank University
Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt King’s College London
Audley Graham London South Bank University
Marcia Grant-Che South Thames College
Nasimulhaq Hasnie Yorkshire & Humberside Retired Members Branch
Sadruddin Husain Liverpool John Moores University
Olufemi Ilesanmi Robert Gordon University
Satvinder Juss Kings College London
Manikandan Kadirvel The University of Manchester
Maria Kauser University of West London
Naina Kent  
Hackney Adult Education
Mumtaz Khan  
Leeds Beckett University
Steve Lui  
University of Huddersfield
Abdul Majothi  
The University of Edinburgh
Iftikhar Malik  
Bath Spa University
Steve Mardy  
Leeds Beckett University
Kauser Mukhtar  
Bradford College
David Muritu  
Sandwell College of FHE
Bahadur Najak  
Northern Retired Members Branch
Nadge Ndzogoue  
University of Huddersfield
Themesa Neckles  
University of Sheffield
Blaise Nkwenti-Azeh  
The University of Manchester
Petrena Notice  
Canterbury Christ Church University
Juliana Ojinnaka  
The Sheffield College
Brenda Phillips  
University of Leeds
Winsome Pinnock  
Kingston University
Isabelle Rahman  
United College (College of North West London)
Saleem Rashid  
Sheffield College
Kehinde Ross  
Liverpool John Moores University
Udeni Salmon  
Keele University
Nita Sanghera  
South & City College Birmingham (Bournville FE)
Zhigang Shui  
The University of Manchester
Shiva Sikdar
June Taitt  
Swansea University
Jacqueline Taylor  
University of Leicester
Jim Thakoordin  
Bedfordshire ACE - Adult Learning
Samuel Uwadiea  
Croydon College
Chiara Vassell  
Croydon College
Nalini Vittal  
University College London
Rashida Vora  
University of Leicester
Marc Wadsworth  
Central Group
Carol White  
Milton Keynes Prison Education
Wendy Yarde  
Capital City Group (Westminster Kingsway)
Umit Yildiz  
Edge Hill University
Abdullah Yusuf  
Dundee University
Farzana Zaman  
Capital City Group (Westminster Kingsway)

**In attendance:**  
Vicky Knight (President),  
Nita Sanghera (Vice-President)  
Chris Nicholas (Equality Support Official)  
Helen Carr (Head of Equalities and Participation),  
Sharon Russell (Equality Officer),  
Jane Atkins (minute taker)
1. Welcome and housekeeping
   1.1 David Muritu introduced himself as Chair and also as the Black members’ rep on NEC. He drew members’ attention to his report to conference and warmly welcomed delegates to this year’s conference on the theme of ‘Challenging the hostile Environment’. Conference.
   1.2 Following housekeeping and outlining the role of the Conference, the Chair reported that following on from the film ‘Witness’ there will be filming taking place in the reception area, the subject being ‘Black Staff Matter’ and encouraged delegates to take the opportunity to participate.

2. Adoption of Standing Orders
   2.1 The Chair asked Conference to adopt standing orders, this was AGREED.
   2.2 The Chair reported that the report of the BMSC is contained in the Conference pack. He reported that at today’s conference there are 4 speakers and a questions and answers session at the end.

   3.1 The minutes were then AGREED as a correct record with the addition of Nasimulhaq Hasnie, which had been missing from the attendance list.
   3.2 Matters Arising
   3.3 Elections to the Black Members’ Standing Committee. The Chair reported that there is an election to the Black Members’ Committee, where there are 6 nominations for 5 places for 2 years. Delegates need to vote by 5pm. Nominees’ addresses are contained in the Conference pack.

4. Report to the Black Members’ Conference from Nita Sanghera Vice-President.
   4.1 Nita Sanghera reported that it is an honour to address the Black Members’ Conference as the first black vice president of UCU. She reported on what she had been doing in the past year, including taking part in the ‘Stand Up To Racism’ campaign which is fighting the rise of the right in university and college campuses across the
UK and Europe. She drew delegate’s attention to the white T shirts which can be signed during the conference and to take part in a photo opportunity.

5. **Keynote Speakers:**

5.1 **Moyra Samuels – Justice4Grenfell.** Moyra is a teacher who has taught at a local primary school and at Kensington and Chelsea College. She is a local activist who has lived in North Kensington for the past 30 years. She was born in South Africa and came to London in the dark days of apartheid. Her experience of apartheid has given her a deep rooted understanding of the importance of fighting inequality and injustice. She has been part of the local campaigns to defend the local library in Ladbroke Grove, to stop the Silchester estate from gentrification as well as being a member of Westway23, a community organisation. Moyra is a key member of the NW London Stand up to Racism group. She has 2 adult children who went to school locally and had friends who lived in Grenfell Tower. She watched the fire on the morning of 14th June 2017 with horror and strongly believes that no community should ever experience what happened at Grenfell.

5.2 Moyra gave a presentation on the current situation and the fight for justice where the legacy of Grenfell will be about change. She presented a film ‘Ghosts of Grenfell’ where the music was from a local activist and rapper ‘Low Key’. This is assessable on YouTube.

5.3 There followed a questions and answers session and debate.

5.4 **Luke de Noronha, Birkbeck College, University of London.**
Luke is a postdoctoral fellow in sociology at Keele University and teaches at Birkbeck College. His research focuses on deportation and he is working on a book ‘Deporting Black Britons: Portraits of Deportation to Jamaica’. Luke is interested in theorising the relationship between racism and immigration control and in contributing to wider conversations and struggles among anti-racist and migrant activists. He has written short pieces for the Guardian, Verso Books blog, VICE News, Open Democracy, Ceasefire Magazine and has experience working with migrant activists and organisation. Luke gave a presentation on the history
of the hostile environment and there followed a questions and answer session with debate.

5.5 Dr Faiza Sheen, Director of CLASS. Prior to this Dr Sheen was Head of Inequality and Sustainable Development at Save the Children UK where she lead on the development of a new global campaign on inequalities in child outcomes, and Senior Researcher on economic inequality at the NEF. Faiza is an economist, writer, activist and commentator, including covering the most salient social and economic debates, inequality, austerity, immigration, youth unemployment and social mobility. She is a regular contributor to news programmes including Newsnight, Channel 4 News and BBC where she has worked on documentaries on inequality. Dr Sheen gave her presentation on issues such as the hostile environment for Syrian children refugees, the mistakes of the left, immigration and freedom of movement and the economics of these issues. There followed a questions and answers session and debate.


6.1 Workshop 1: Intersectionality – Kirsten Forkert
Workshop 2: From trump to Tommy Robinson and the DFLA: How can we stop the racist and fascist right? - Naina Kent
Workshop 3: Precarious work to secure contracts – Jason Arday and Juliana Ojinnaka.

6.2 Feedback from Workshops

6.3 There followed a feedback session from the workshops and debate.

7. Facilitated conference discussion: 'Who Are We? Black, BAME, BME, BEM..? Conference rapporteur/session Chair Wilf Sullivan.

7.1 The Chair introduced Wilf Sullivan TUC official on Race to chair the discussion.

7.2 Wilf thanked Conference for inviting him and spoke about the history behind these issues; empire and imperialism and identity politics. The language around race discrimination is always contested and around divide and rule. We don't live in a meritocracy and discriminatory practices are built on exploitation.
7.3 There followed discussion and debate on these issues and the need to find a language that unifies us.

7.4 The Chair thanked Wilf for attending and all the delegates who took part in the lively debate.

8. **Close of Conference.**

8.1 The Chair closed the Conference and thanked all delegates for making it a worthwhile event and to go back to the branches and get involved. He reminded delegates to vote in the ballot for BMSC members.