

UCU LGBT+ Members' Standing Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

UCU LGBT+ overview

Events have been the TUC LGBT+ conference, a walking delegation at Pride London, and stalls at Birmingham, Sparkle, UK Pride (Doncaster), UK Black and Manchester Prides. The committee met for the 3 scheduled meetings. There have also been webinars and cpd sessions. Webinars have focused on health, history, migrant LGBT+, international, law and culture, and solidarity. An update is underway of the Pride and Prejudice in Education survey report.

CPD: LGBT+ Language in Use, Advancing LGBT+ Liberation and Challenging LGBT+ Exclusion.

2024 saw continuation and expansion of UCU equality CPD sessions. Language in Use continues to be popular after 3 years since the launch. Advancing LGBT+ Liberation is a honed version of the 2023 Recognising LGBT+ Exclusion looking more closely at normativities and the way hetero and cis normative assumptions have impact on lives and experiences of many LGBT+ people. In 2024 Challenging LGBT+ exclusion focuses on intersectional listening, handling difficult conversations and how branches can take / have taken action around LGBT+ inclusion. A 4th LGBT+ cpd session focusing on what can be done in workplaces to further LGBT+ liberation this will be released in 2025.

UCU LGBT+ Webinars

The series of LGBT+ webinars started in September 2023 continued in 2024. You can see these on the UCU LGBT+ Charter page

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/LGBT+charter>

February – March

Health

Panel:

Nat Thorne, Nottingham Trent University

Luke Fletcher, University of Bath

Harun Tulunay, Positively UK

Chair: Mark Pendleton, University of Sheffield and UCU National Executive

History

Panel:

Maria Exall, TUC

Ross Forman, University of Warwick

Holly Cooper, University of Warwick and TUC LGBT+ committee

Chris Parkes, King's College, London

Chair: David Murphy, University of Lancaster

May

LGBT+ migration

Panel:

Harun Tulunay, Positively UK

Daniel Keeler, Canterbury Christ Church University and UCU Migrants' Committee

Chair: Sen Raj, Manchester Metropolitan University

International LGBT+

Panel:

Lainie Keper, Education International

Dr Frances Hamilton and Tahlia Virdee, School of Law, University of Reading

*A free online resource available here: lgbtqtraveltool.com

Mini Saxena, SOAS, University of London

Muwonge Gerald, Foaster Foundation, Uganda

Chair: David Murphy, University of Lancaster

October

Law and Culture

Sen Raj, Manchester Metropolitan University

Mini Saxena, SOAS, London

Jjuuko Adrian, Human Rights Action and Promotion Forum, Uganda

Chair: Sen Raj, Manchester Metropolitan University

November

Solidarity

Tracy Walsh, UCU

Tig Slater + Drew Simms, Sheffield Hallam University

Alex Baird, University of Bedfordshire

Chair: Flora Renz, University of Kent

UCU @ Pride Events

UCU presence at Pride events increased from previous and featured a UCU walking group at Pride London. There were stalls at Birmingham, Sparkle Festival in Manchester, UK Pride in Doncaster, Black and Manchester Prides.

UCU Congress

The committee participated in and had motions and amendments passed at Congress 2024 (May) These covered:

Academic Freedom (which was carried);

Remitted motion, on opposing the anti-woke agenda

A late motion about the Cass report (remitted)

Amendments about Palestine (carried); Intersectionality (carried)

Sector conferences were not held.

TUC LGBT+ Conference

The 2024 TUC LGBT+ conference was held in person in June, ahead of Pride London.

UCU filled all available places delegate spaces. Several people were first time members of the UCU delegation. David Murphy was elected to the TUC LGBT+ committee. UCU motion about defending LGBT+ rights was passed. As was an emergency motion about the Cass report into [gender identity services for children and young people](#).

UCU also hosted a fringe event at TUC LGBT+ conference on international issues where the speakers were Lainie Keper and Muwonge Gerald.

LGBT+ Members Standing Committee (MSC)

Peter Evans has been the LGBT+ representative role (FE) on NEC and voted in as Chair of the LGBT+ MSC. Mark Pendleton has been LGBT+ HE representative on NEC.

Members of the committee have been: Jennie Appleyard (Leeds City College); Peta Bulmer (University of Liverpool); Stephen Desmond (Solent University); Peter Evans (Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College) (Chair); Matilda Fitzmaurice (Newcastle University); Athanasia Francis - (University of Liverpool); Gina Gwenffrewi (University of Edinburgh); Bee Hughes (Liverpool John Moores University); Philip Inglesant (London Retired members); Guoxin Ma (University of Southampton); Mark Pendleton (University of Sheffield); Carol White (Novus)