

COVID-19 pandemic: UCU supports members

As the UK government, Mayor of London, and employers react to this unprecedented and fast moving crisis, we need to redouble our efforts to stay connected and act collectively to safeguard members, safeguard our sectors, and emerge stronger from this very challenging situation. UCU is taking steps to ensure the safety of staff and students in all the sectors we represent.

UCU has a dedicated website area with advice for UCU members on the coronavirus:

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/covid19>

This includes guidance on working from home and teaching online: <https://bit.ly/39ywl94>

UCU has also produced bargaining guidance for branches to support local negotiations to ensure that all members are treated fairly and protected during the crisis:

<https://bit.ly/2R7qPnr>

The London regional office is providing dedicated support to branch officers and members to ensure that local negotiations are taking place. In particular the union is seeking to identify rogue employers forcing staff to take holidays, micromanaging staff working from home, forcing staff to attend work premises for non-essential work, and threatening lay-offs. Where this is happening the union will act to protect members.

The main message is look after yourselves!

You are the union. Your membership protects you and all of your fellow workers by keeping the union strong.

These are difficult times for all of us: we will get through this stronger together

This is the first of a new regular series of newsletters from London regional office to keep us connected and informed through the crisis. As well as news on the developing landscape around Covid-19, we will be bringing you news from the union, and information to support you.

As always, we invite you to contact us with any issues or questions you may have through our team email address: londonregion@ucu.org.uk

Barry Jones & Adam Lincoln
Regional officials

Keep your UCU record up-to-date!

My UCU

We need to make sure that our records are accurate and up to date, so that we can communicate with every single member.

To ensure you get vital communications from UCU, please make sure your UCU membership details are correct and keep them updated at My UCU: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/myucu>

Please register (it takes 2 minutes) and check you have entered the correct:

- preferred correspondence address
 - UCU branch
- preferred contact email
- mobile phone number

We need to stay in touch - please check your record as soon as you can

We need to hear from you

The London regional office stands with you through this period; you are the union and together we can get through this challenging time. And we need to hear from you.

We are currently running a survey of employers' responses to the crisis, but your individual experiences and views are important to us too, so please take a moment to respond to the questions below:

1. have you been in contact with your branch and fellow members over the past two weeks?
2. have you had any online meetings? And if so, what software did you use and what worked best?
3. what messages have you had from your employers?
4. do you have any other stories or issues arising from the crisis so far that you want to tell us?

Please send your answers to: londonregion@ucu.org.uk

Thank you