

Statement of Priorities 2025-26, agreed by the NEC

Fifteen key themes drawn from the motions passed by Congress and the sector conferences in 2025 have been grouped with specific actions into five priority areas. Some key themes appear under more than one priority area.

Priority area	Key themes, specific actions
Priority area 1: Winning collectively	Fight for members' pay and terms and conditions, including pensions • Support UK/England disputes in HE and FE; Fair deal for FE campaign • Pushing for a better deal for members in prison and adult education • Campaign to stop post-92 opt-outs from TPS Defend members' jobs, including casualised staff • Seek HEIs' guarantee of no redundancies for the next two academic years • Ensure branches can move to strike action as quickly as possible where redundancies are threatened • Campaigning against redundancy threats with support to branches; protecting casualised staff when redundancies are threatened • Opposing the use of subsidiary companies in HE • Collect more data re casualised staff and the use of casualised contracts where possible Take action for equality in the workplace and beyond • Press employers to develop and implement trans inclusive policies, and strong policies against transphobia • Support members in challenging workplace racism; seek FE institutions' commitment to racial equality and demand their provision of anti-racism training Improve the conditions under which our members work • Advocate for stricter institutional policies where FE students engage in inappropriate conduct
Priority area 2: Leading, campaigning, influencing	Campaign for a new funding model, for a fully funded post-16 education sector • Priority campaign: funding of post-16 education including new HE funding model. Including demands for reversal of cuts and investment in all sectors (inc adult, prisons, FE). To include demonstrations and parliamentary lobbies.

	Defend courses, curriculum, and the ability to deliver • Campaigning against job cuts; opposing departmental cuts and closures • For a broad curriculum (including the arts) in HE, FE, adult and prison education, including Black curricula Opposing the far right and attacks on equality • Opposing attacks on refugees and asylum seekers and migrants; opposing Reform; opposing attacks on trans rights • Work together with the TUC, sister unions and relevant organisations such as SUTR to organise events and defend against the far right. Support the freedom to protest, on and off campus • Condemn the stifling of activism in support of Palestine Prioritising 'people not profits' • Political lobbying which reflects 'people not profits'; joining in the campaigns of other organisations on benefit cuts, public services, fair state pension, and against arms spending • Pushing for ethical pension scheme investment (USS) Act to further the green agenda • Campaigning and involvement in the trade union year of climate action • Advocating for training on retrofitting • Bringing Just Transition into industrial bargaining Defend and improve the employment rights of members, including action on casualisation • Campaigning against widespread use of casual contracts, against subsidiary companies, to strengthen the rights of those who are on casualised contracts (inc zero-hours) • Press our legislative demands re the Employment Rights Act and repeal of the Minimum Services Levels Act Defend academic freedom; defend freedom of expression • Cradle to Grave event
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	Solidarity with international educators, especially in conflict zones • Support for Campus Voices for Palestine tour; support other campaigns to support Palestinian educators • Continue the union's international work including through EI (Education International)
Priority area 3: Building a strong and involved membership	Increase recruitment and engagement from all groups within the membership • Developing campaigns at local, regional and UK level to increase member density and engagement, including from casualised FE members, from disabled members in FE, and from ARPS members Provide branches with the tools to build branches and support members • Continue to provide training for members, including on industrial matters such as TUPE, and CPD including on LGBT+ advocacy • Provide additional resources for Black members and learners
Priority 4: Supporting and representing members	Take action for equality in the workplace and beyond • Targeted legal support for Black members facing discriminatory job losses Provide branches with the tools to build branches and support members • Ongoing support for members through the legal scheme • Collecting data, where this can be obtained, including on equality, and on casualisation, to support negotiations and campaigns
Priority 5: Effectively resourcing our work	• Manage all union activities within the agreed budget • Resource the union's democratic structures

