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1. Campaigning

As the party political conferences draw to a close, the race is on for who will win the general election next May. UCU does not affiliate to any political party, however, whichever political party wins next May their policies will undoubtedly have an impact on each and every one of us.

On the back of the European elections, we saw an increase in right-wing representation throughout Europe including gains made by the Front National in

France to a political surge to the right in the UK with substantial gains made by the UK Independence Party using the rhetoric of anti-immigration supported by wild claims in the press – it UCU policy to challenge.

Our greatest threat comes from those who stand to create further inequality, injustice and discrimination and it is our duty to challenge those who spread fear amongst our communities.

Where far right ideologies and rhetoric arise within our communities, we call on you to:

Mobilise with other campus unions to challenge and oppose our colleges and universities being used as a recruitment ground or platform for any group that stands to create division, fear and hatred

Challenge statements made by public figures and the media which give credibility and strength to far-right arguments and promote scapegoating

Issue public statements, when appropriate, celebrating the diversity of students and staff in colleges and universities and celebrating the economic and cultural contribution of migrants and refugees and reissue appropriately modified versions whenever there is an attack

Reaffirm UCU's commitment to supporting and where necessary actively engaging with anti-racists and anti-fascist organisations.

The above points have been taken from Resolution 66 'Immigration and racism'

UCU will be calling for political parties not to engage in the scapegoating of minority groups before, during and after next years' election.

2. Immigration and education

We would like to draw on the expertise of our members particularly those who are migration specialists to contribute robust evidence that dispels the myths on the impact of migrant workers (and students) and focuses on the valuable contribution made by migrants to the education sector and society. If you have written and/or published discussion papers, reports etc. and would like to contribute to this project, please email eqadmin@ucu.org.uk. Papers will made available on our website and help inform our policy and arguments against some of the current media and political thinking and policies

such as points based immigration. It will form part of our campaigning strategy to challenge the myths and the importance of a professional and international education workforce and student body. Further information more detailed information will follow. I also attach for your information the link to the research undertaken by UCU a few years ago on points based immigration [here](#).

3. UCU anti-fascist resource pack

As part of a resource pack for teaching and general campaigning on anti-fascism we will include the issue of immigration including a) the invaluable contribution of migrants and refugees to society, particularly in education, research and the labour movement b) the importance of internationalism for education and research c) the value of academic and cultural exchanges and cultural diversity d) emigration from UK in particular the impact on overseas students / staff.

If you would like to contribute to this project, please email Chris Nicholas (cnicholas@ucu.org.uk) or Sharon Russell (srussell@ucu.org.uk) for further details. We will also be producing campaigning materials in the run up to the general election next year and will inform you when they are ready to order.

4. Holocaust Memorial Day 2014

January 27 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. 27 January is the day every year that we commemorate the memories of the millions who were murdered in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Bosnia, Cambodia, Darfur and Rwanda. Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity to remember but also for all of us to continue to challenge hatred and persecution in the world today. 2015 will also mark the 20th anniversary of the Genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia.

The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day for 2015 is '**Keep the memory alive**', ensuring that the memories of those who were murdered and those who survived are at the heart of Holocaust Memorial Day. We will be launching the revised anti-Semitism leaflet for January 2015 that will address some of the causes and the union's position in tackling and addressing anti-Semitism.

In preparation of HMD 2015, you can order your copies of the UCU wall chart and book of testimonials by UCU members. Email eqadmin@ucu.org.uk stating quantities and your full postal details. Organising an activity? Why not show one (or both) of our films a) Holocaust: UCU members talk candidly about the impact of the Holocaust on family members and themselves and b) The Kindertransport: Journeys to Safety that documents the memories of children who escaped from Nazi occupied Germany as part of the Kindertransport programme. Please let us know about your event so that we can share this with the wider membership - email eqadmin@ucu.org.uk with your event details.

5. News round-up from our affiliates



unite against fascism

UAF at the Labour Party and TUC conferences

UAF organised very well attended fringe meetings at the TUC and the Labour Party conferences. Diane Abbott MP, Peter Hain MP, Claude Moraes MEP and Weyman Bennett were amongst the speakers at the Labour Party event. Speakers at the TUC fringe meeting included Communication Workers Union General Secretary Billy Hayes, Deputy General Secretary Kevin Courtney NUT and UAF vice Chair Jennifer Moses. The meetings argued that Labour should not concede to UKIP's racism on immigration. Trade unions and the antifascist and anti-racist movements must challenge arguments scapegoating immigrants for the drop in living standards.

Source: UAF

Web: <http://uaf.org.uk/>



HOPE

HOPE not hate have produced a book to mark their 10th birthday. With the foreword written by Eddie Izzard, the book charts 10 years of HNH campaigning. Spanning 240 pages and detailing over 200 campaigning photos and images with dozens of first-hand accounts from those involved.

The book is available to purchase for £10 plus £2.99 p&p via the HNH website at <https://donate.hopenothate.org.uk/page/contribute/10-years-of-hope-not-hate>.

Source: HOPE not hate **Web:** <http://www.hopenothate.org.uk/?page=home>

6. Black History Month Event

A half-day conference open to all exploring race equality in Higher Education on Tuesday 21 October 2014. This event is organised by the Open University BME Network supported by UCU.

**The Hub Lecture Theatre, the Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes,
MK7 6AA
12:30-16:15**

This conference seeks to examine BME participation in higher education, bringing together academic research, union members, education experts and university representatives to provide a balanced and rigorous discussion of the current state of higher education for BME staff.

Chaired by **Sas Amoah** (Open University) the conference will hear contributions from **Professor Harinder Bahra** (Leeds Metropolitan University) on tackling race discrimination in the work place – A Case Study

Professor Gargi Bhattacharyya (University of East London) on Recruitment and Career Progression

Professor Gus John (Institute of Education, University of East London) on Quickening the Pace! - The power of Global Majority activism in HE

Please email BME-Matters@open.ac.uk to reserve your seat by **Thursday 16th October 2014**

7. Events

Organiser: UCU
Location: Manchester Conference Centre
Date: Thursday 13th, Friday 14th and Saturday 15th November 2014
Type of event: UCU Annual Equality Conference

Thursday 13th November 2014

14.30 – 18.30 **Women Members' Conference**

19.30 **Dinner (All members)**

Friday 14th November 2014

9.30 – 13.00 **Joint Plenary and Workshop Sessions (All members)**

14.00 – 17.00 **Black Members and Disabled Members Conference**

14.00 – 17.00 **A workshop will be organised on Friday afternoon for those who are not attending the black members' conference or disabled members'**

conference but travelling home later on Friday or staying for the LGBT conference.

Saturday 15th November 2014

10.00 – 13.00 **LGBT Members Conference**
13.00 **Close of conference**

Organiser: **National Union of Teachers**
Location: **Broadway Theatre, Barking, London**
Date and time: **Friday 17 October 2014**
Type of event: **Lecture: Annual Anthony Walker Memorial Lecture**

Each year, the Anthony Walker Memorial Lecture is organised by the NUT in conjunction with the Walker family and the Anthony Walker Foundation. Anthony was murdered in a brutal, racially motivated attack in Liverpool on 30 July 2005.

The lecture is one of a range of activities that keep Anthony's memory alive and continue the fight against racist violence. It will take place in Barking and Dagenham at the Broadway Theatre.

The lecture is free but booking is essential. For more information contact the Education and Equalities department by email awl@nut.org.uk or telephone 020 7 380 4861.

Organiser: **TUC**
Location: **Central London**
Date and time: **Saturday 18 October 2014**
Type of event: **Demonstration – Britain Needs a Pay Rise march and rally**

Trade unionists and campaigners calling for decent pay and a fairer economy will be marching in London, Glasgow and Belfast on Saturday 18 October. UCU members will be assembling in **Glasgow at Glasgow Green, 10am**, in **Belfast at 12pm at Writer's Square** and in **London at 11am on Embankment** at zone 11 numbered lamppost outside **Temple tube here** (Please note that Temple station is likely to be closed on the day – use Waterloo, Southwark, Blackfriars, St. Paul's or City Thameslink instead). Please contact ebailey@ucu.org.uk if you are able to help steward the London event.

Organiser: **Unite against fascism**
Location: **Poland**
Date and time: **6 – 10 November 2014**
Type of event: **Educational Trip to Auschwitz and Krakow**

Unite against Fascism and Love Music Hate Racism are organising our second annual visit to the Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp in Poland 6 – 10 November 2014.

The purpose of this visit is to deeper understand the Holocaust and the Nazis but we also want to look at the threat of fascism today.

We will be based in the historic city of Krakow, a city that ranks alongside Prague and Vienna as one of Central Europe's gems. Until the Second World War, Krakow was one of the great Jewish centres in Europe. In March 1943 the Nazis cleared the ghetto and sent the city's entire population to extermination camps. The story of the ghetto's liquidation and Plaszow concentration camp shown in the film *Schindler's List*.

As well as the trip to the Auschwitz concentration camp and Birkenau death camp, the itinerary includes a guided tour of the Jewish Quarter (Kazimierz) and the Krakow ghetto ending at the Schindler Factory. In the evening we will hold lectures on "Understanding the Holocaust" and "Fighting fascism today."

The trip will cost £180 waged/£132 student/unwaged. (Would your trade union be prepared to make an extra contribution towards the trip as well?). This includes a budget hotel, the guided tour of the Jewish Quarter and Ghetto, lectures and the coach trip to Auschwitz.

Contact UAF for further information <http://uaf.org.uk/2014/07/2014-educational-trip-to-auschwitz-and-krakow/>

Organiser: Stand up to racism
Location: Central London
Date and time: Saturday 21 March 2015
Type of event UN Anti-Racism Day: Stand up to racism

Work has already begun on mobilising communities for next year's UN Anti-Racism Day demo on Saturday 21 March 2015. For details about this annual event, visit <http://www.standuptoracism.org.uk/> . UCU will continue to update you on developments for this annual events – let's make it bigger and better than last year!

A good note to end on...

It would be remiss if we did not mention the great fall of Nick Griffin. On the heel of losing his seat as an MEP in the European elections, he has now been expelled from the British National Party. Here's to more great campaigning against fascism!