

USS BALLOT RESULT—HISTORIC HIGH TURNOUT

Message from Sally Hunt, UCU General Secretary:

The USS consultation closed at 2pm Friday 13 April 2018.

The result was as follows:

Total balloted: 53,415

Total votes cast: 33,973

Total number valid votes: 33,913

Turnout: 63.5%

Yes to accept the UUK offer 21,683 (64%)

No to reject the UUK offer 12,230 (36%)

This represents the highest turnout in any national ballot or consultation of any kind in UCU's history.

My thanks go to all the branches and UCU staff who did so much to encourage members to participate in such enormous numbers as well as to the thousands of members who contacted me direct to discuss and debate our next steps during the consultation. In line with the decision of members the union will suspend its immediate industrial action plans **but keep our legal strike mandate live** until the agreement between UCU and UUK is noted by USS.

We will now get on with the job of making the joint expert panel work for you and your pension.

For the avoidance of doubt, all currently planned industrial action - including that scheduled for next week - is suspended and members should work normally.

However you voted, thank you so much for participating in this record breaking consultation and for all of your support for the union throughout this historic dispute.

#CovUniShame: JOIN THE PROTEST ON WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL
Stop The anti-union dirty tricks in the Coventry University Group.

UCU vice-president Douglas Chalmers will join the [solidarity protests at Coventry University on 18 April](#), adding to support from across the city, the region and the UK. If you can send support to this protest, please do and also stand by for more details of the larger demonstration being planned on 16 May. [Catch up on all the campaign news here](#)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
NITA SANGHERA ON HER
ELECTION AS UCU
VICE-PRESIDENT ELECT FE!**



UNPRECEDENTED FIVE DAYS OF STRIKE ACTION AT SANDWELL COLLEGE IN SUPPORT OF PAY CLAIM

Sandwell College UCU members stages five days of strike action during February and March. The picket lines were well supported on each day, despite adverse weather conditions such as snow and wind chill of minus 10 degrees.



DIARY DATES

You are invited to a FREE celebration of solidarity, unity and multiculturalism. It is 50 years since Wolverhampton MP Enoch Powell's racist "Rivers of Blood" speech promoting division and hate. 50 years later we are hosting a meeting and party to celebration the hard work of all those opposed his nightmare vision. Join us for a evening of discussion and celebration.

With speaker Roger McKenzie (Unison assistant general secretary) Angela Spence (West Park school Class of 68) Shirin Hirsch (Wolverhampton University) Obaida Ahmed (prospective councillor St Peters ward) Patrick Vernon (activist and writer)

THEN WE PARTY

SOUL, REGGAE, SKA, ROCKSTEADY,
DISCO, FUNK, HIP HOP,
DJs The Class of 68 Collective, Patrick Vernon
Reel Rebel Radio London
April 21st 2018, 5.30 till late

Many rivers to cross
Remembering legacies of race and resistance

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THE WOLVERHAMPTON HERITAGE CENTRE
CLIFFORD ST, WOLVERHAMPTON WV6 0AA

Sent via Mike Edwards, Shrewsbury College TU Studies

West Midlands Regional Committee and Regional AGM

Saturday 21 April 2018, Birmingham Alpha Tower.

AGM is 1000 hrs

FE and HE Sector Meetings 1030 hrs

Main Regional Committee Meeting is 1200 hrs

West Midlands Black Members' Network Meeting

Thursday 10 May 2018, 1830-2030 hrs, Birmingham Alpha Tower Office

Calling notice and agenda will be sent out shortly

West Midlands Women's Group Meeting

Thursday 17 May, 1800-2000 hrs, Birmingham Alpha Tower Office

Following on from a successful launch meeting on 15 February. A calling notice and agenda will be sent out I due course.

UCU 2018 CONGRESS, MANCHESTER Wed 30 May to Fri 1 June

Please make every effort to send a delegate to this year's Congress from your branch and ensure you take part in the democratic processes of the union. If your branch is less than 100 and you need to be aggregated with another branch to attend contact lfoley@ucu.org.uk

Last date for registrations is 25 April
Full details here:

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/Congress2018>

OTHER EVENTS

Support the Campaign to Restore Birmingham's Libraries

Friends of The Libraries of Birmingham has an active campaign to defend libraries against cuts and closures. They are currently pushing for the restoration of the £1.93 million cut to the community libraries last year and the earlier swingeing cuts to The Library of Birmingham. Join them by e-mailing them at: friendsoflibraryofbirmingham@gmail.com Endorse their statement calling for the restoration of these cuts. You can find it on their website at: <https://birminghamlibrariescampaigns.wordpress.com/>

Encourage the candidates in your ward in the May elections to support the statement!

Keele Black UCU Members Group Event

There is a free public lecture by David Olusoga at Keele University in the Westminster Theatre in the Chancellor's Building on Monday April 16th, from 6-7pm.

Book your free tickets here: [at the Keele estore here:](#)

<https://estore.keele.ac.uk/product-catalogue/arts-keele/lectures/black-and-british-a-forgotten-history-david-olusoga>

Overview of lecture: Historian and broadcaster David Olusoga will explore the rich and revealing story of the long relationship between the British Isles and the people of Africa and the Caribbean, based on his award-winning book and TV series Refreshments in the Chancellor's Foyer 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Lecture 6.00pm - 7.00pm

David Olusoga has been invited as part of the [Race Equality Lecture series](#), which is co-chaired by Dr Sammyh Khan and Professor Shane O'Neill.

UCU NATIONAL RECRUITMENT WEEK W/C 14 MAY 2018

Yes its that time of year again! Let us know what you are planning for National Recruitment week and whether you want any promo materials or regional office support. An email will be sent out to all branches in the coming week with suggestions. If you have any ideas or want regional support in the meantime and want any help email Lesley Foley, Branch Development Organiser on lfoley@ucu.org.uk or ring 0121 634 7390



UCU
University and College Union

ME & UCU

"Instructor, assessor, trainer, facilitator... I've been called all sorts, but with UCU, it's what I do as part of the teaching team that counts. Not what I'm called."

Four years FREE membership if you teach but don't have a teaching contract - join today.

FREE MEMBERSHIP OFFER

UCU are offering free* membership to staff working in further education not on lecturing contracts but part of the teaching and assessing team, such as instructor, assessor, trainer, teaching assistant or progression coach.

*Free membership includes access to all the benefits of full membership: help if you have a problem at work; a legal scheme provided by specialist employment lawyers covering employment rights, personal injury and police enquiries.

It is provided for a maximum of four years from registration. Free membership is provided on the basis that you inform UCU promptly when your circumstances change and you secure a job in FE if you are appointed to the teaching staff.