

## Report for May 2017 - October 2018

### Demonstrations and Campaigns

Our main public activity has been the campaign about the deportations of those West Indian people known as the "Windrush Generation". This was the subject of our motion to this year's congress, eventually passed at the recalled conference. We have been working closely with Caribbean Labour Solidarity (CLS). We raised the matter on various trades councils and, following our initiative, this went to the Greater London Association of Trade Union Councils, where it received unanimous support. We sponsored a well attended public meeting, jointly organised with CLS, the Crossroads Women's Centre and UNITE the UNION (BAME).



We took part in various demonstrations

- Solidarity with the Grenfell Fire victims.
- Against Israeli aggression in Gaza.
- University of London outsourced workers demonstration.
- Stop Trump
- Against the "Free Tommy Robinson" extreme right-wing coalition, including solidarity with Bookmarks bookshop.

We continued our work in solidarity with the workers of Bahrain, working with the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD) and MENA Solidarity.

We supported the visit of Bernard Coard, former deputy Prime Minister of the Peoples' revolutionary Government of Grenada

Two of our members organised the *Medical Aid for Greece* fundraising dinner and we had a UCU retired members table.

Opposition to the closure of the college in Kensington and Chelsea.

Opposed the IHRA definition of antisemitism and supported Tower Hamlets Palestine Solidarity Campaign in their dispute with Tower Hamlets Council on this matter.

## Speakers at Branch Meetings

Christine Lindey, member of our branch and author of *Art for All: British Socially Committed Art from the 1930s to the Cold War*

Senator Andre Lewis, President of the Trades Union Congress of the Island of Grenada in the Caribbean

## National Pensioners Convention

We are affiliated to both the NPC London Region and the national organisation. Our delegate is a member of the London Region Executive, she stood at the AGM for the post of vice-chair and, while receiving a respectable vote, was not elected. We sent delegates to the Pensioners' Parliament

We sent 2 motions to the NPC London Region AGM 2018:

### **Climate Change, Airport Expansion and Fracking**

*We recognise that the motion on Climate Change passed at this year's TUC makes progress towards the resolution on Climate Change passed at last year's London region NPC. However, we regret that there is no mention of opposition to fracking or airport expansion. We therefore call upon the NPC to continue to campaign within the trade union movement in support of all the demands raised previously.*

### **ESOL and the older migrant**

*Given the rise of Islamophobia and other forms of racism, this branch calls for the Government to immediately fund free ESOL classes in FE colleges and elsewhere within the public sector. While the facilities to learn to speak English should be the right of all migrants, we are especially concerned with the older non-English speaker who is likely to be especially isolated and disadvantaged.*

both were passed

## Trades Councils

We are affiliated to 8 London Trades Councils and one in Kent. One of our members is part of the group refounding Kensington and Chelsea trades Council

## Members publications and presentations

We now have a "Reviews" page on the branch website. This is for either reviews that members have written or reviews in other publications of members' publications.

<http://ucu-retired-london.org.uk/category/reviews/>

Two of our members spoke at London Socialist Historians' Workshop on "*Internationalist Renegades and Traitors*". This will be the basis of a Socialist History Society booklet in the Spring of 2019.

<http://www.socialisthistorysociety.co.uk/?p=564>

Christine Lindey, *Art for All: British Socially Committed Art from the 1930s to the Cold War*. Christine has given many other presentations of her new book.

Steve Cushion, *Movimiento obrero revolucionario: la contribución de la clase obrera al triunfo de la Revolución 1952-1959* – Havana: Editora Historia

Marilyn Moos, *Political Victims of the Nazis*, Socialist History Society public meeting

## **Membership**

We have maintained the branch website - <http://ucu-retired-london.org.uk/>

We have continued to use the "Mailchimp" email system for branch circulars.

We now have a Facebook page -

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/UCULondonRetired/posts/>

but Twitter is a step to far

We have held 4 meetings in 2018. We have 599 members.