

## Report for October 2018 - May 2019

Both the Secretary and the Chair have been unwell this year and would like to thank their deputies and the other delegates who have assumed greater responsibilities as result.



## Demonstrations and Campaigns

We took part in various demonstrations

- National Unity Demonstration Against Racism & Fascism Saturday 17th November 2018
- People's Assembly Against Austerity, January 12th

ans supported the following campaigns:

- Supported German anti-fascists call for support and international protest around events in Chemnitz.
- Protest - *Bahrain: Don't execute victims of torture*
- Open letter from UK academics: "*The harsh sentencing of anti-fracking campaigners sets a dangerous precedent*"
- Wrote to oppose the planned closure of ticket offices at 51 London Overground stations [later 47 saved]
- Continued our support for the campaign to "Save Wornington College" in the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
- Opposed life imprisonment of Durham University Matthew Hedges student in

UAE.

- Supported the NPC campaign for Free TV Licence for 75+
- Agreed to BOYCOTT SENATE HOUSE until management agree to take the staff back in house and recognise the union.
- Supported the "Stansted 15", a group of people who peacefully stopped a secret charter flight from deporting precarious migrants to destitution, persecution, and death.
- Supported the Camden Traffic Wardens Trade Dispute.
- Supported Southall Resists 40 to honour the memories of Gurdip Singh Chaggar and Blair Peach.
- Finally, we received the following report from our delegate to Ealing trades union council:

*We are delighted to inform you that the Government has now withdrawn their support from the 'Shaping a Healthier Future' (SaHF) cuts plans. This means that Ealing & Charing Cross Hospitals are keeping their A&Es!! Along with the A&Es, wards will remain open and patients will be able to have treatment, operations and a bed at both hospitals.*

## Speakers at Branch Meetings

*Report of Stand up to Racism visit to Auschwitz - Sybil Cock*

## Motion to UCU London Region

### **Slavery and Reparations**

*We note the University of Glasgow report on how the institution benefited from slavery and welcome their intention to make reparations. We congratulate our members who have been instrumental in achieving this result. We call upon all branches to pursue similar enquiries within their own institutions with a view to obtaining recognition of the role of slavery and the slave trade in financing British Higher Education as part of the development of British capitalism.*

Carried unanimously

*[the week after this was passed by London Region, the University of Cambridge announced just such an enquiry!]*

## 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. We sent delegates to the Pensioners' Parliament.

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

### **Pollution and Alzheimer's disease**

*We note that researchers in the UK have found that increased levels of air pollution, including high levels of nitrogen dioxide and microscopic atmospheric particles called particulates, are associated with an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease. This highlights the importance of environmental campaigns for intergenerational solidarity and calls upon the NPC to give them added propriety. In particular, we*

*reiterate our opposition to the extension of Heathrow airport, the construction of HS2 and the legalisation of fracking, all of which would be major sources of pollution.*

### **SCRAP THE ICP CONTRACT**

*NHS England is consulting on the contract for a new model of health and social care provision that threatens the break-up of the NHS run by 'Integrated Care Providers'. Each of these 'business units' would control spending and rationing of healthcare for populations of up to 500,000 each. They will dis-integrate health and social care and put Finance before patient care. These huge contracts will be open to the private sector to compete for. We call upon UCU and the NPC to oppose this vigorously.*

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 that has re-founded Kensington and Chelsea Trades Council

### **Members publications and presentations**

Social Histories of Revolution: the long 1960s - Steve Cushion, *Workers in the Cuban Revolution*

Book Launch - *Telling The Mayflower Story: Thanksgiving or Land Grabbing, Massacres & Slavery?* - Steve Cushion and Danny Reilly

The Secretary went to the island of Grenada in the West Indies for the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Grenadian Revolution. He spoke at an exhibition of memorabilia of the 'Revo' and renewed our relationship with the Grenadian Trades Union Congress.

### **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. [I have removed one member from the list for sending me an abusive, zionist, racist response to a circular opposing the murder of Palestinian protestors by the Israeli Defence Forces].

We have a Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/pg/UCULondonRetired/posts/>

We have held 2 meetings in since October 2018. We have 599 members.