**Trade union laws frustrate action on pay and equality**

Ballots in higher education (HE) and further education (FE) in England closed last Friday and [full results can be found here.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/62390/151504/6929/2/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMjYgT2N0b2JlciAyMDE4&x=d7c887bb) Thanks to everyone that voted and helped to get the vote out. Unfortunately despite enormous efforts, very few institutions achieved the 50% turnout now required under anti-trade union laws. The results and next steps will now be considered by the union. [Find out more about the campaign to repeal the anti-trade union laws here.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/62390/151504/6930/3/)

**Ballot results round up**

Meanwhile members in Welsh FE institutions [have voted overwhelmingly](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/62390/151504/6931/4/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMjYgT2N0b2JlciAyMDE4&x=7b98002d) to take action in both ballots on pay and workload with a turnout of 52% and 54% respectively. Congratulations to Wales FE members on this fantastic result. UCU negotiators will be meeting ColegauCymru in the next couple of weeks to encourage them to reconsider their pay offer and re-start negotiations on workload.

Two local ballots on pay and contracts also closed at Lambeth and Croydon Colleges with both branches voting in favour of action and beating the legal turnout threshold (61% and 57% respectively). Congratulations are due to both branches and their members for this impressive result. The union is seeking further negotiations with management based on this strong mandate and you will be kept updated.

**National unity demonstration against fascism and racism, 17 November**

UCU is calling on members to support [the national unity demonstration against fascism and racism](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/62390/151504/6932/5/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMjYgT2N0b2JlciAyMDE4&x=6c11a163) in London on Saturday 17 November. Find more details and coach information on [the Facebook event page here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/62390/151504/6933/6/) and you can [download posters here.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/62390/151504/6934/7/)

[See here for the full update including:](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/62390/151504/6935/8/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMjYgT2N0b2JlciAyMDE4&x=5c34328f)

* In the news
* Home office reverse decision on Newcastle deportation couple
* FE transforming lives and communities
* Staff governors' conference 2018
* UCU black members’ conference: Faiza Shaheen confirms as guest speaker
* University of Manchester UCU branch launches its new mental health network next week

Best wishes

Justine Stephens
UCU head of campaigns