

Conference Motions

Support for Rohingya People

Conference condemns the ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Rohingya people carried out by the government of Myanmar/Burma and recognises their right to return to their homeland as full citizens.

Conference supports the self-organisation and self-determination of the Rohingya people in Burma, in the refugee camps, in the diaspora, and in particular in Britain, to seek international support for their return and to campaign for dignified living conditions in the camps in Bangladesh.

Conference instructs the Executive of the NEU to continue to work with the Rohingya Centre UK and other appropriate organisations to:

1. Lobby our Government, MPs and international organisations to work for the rights of all Rohingya people to return to their country as citizens free from persecution and with full civil rights
2. Organise practical support for those Rohingyas trapped in the refugee camps, including aid
3. Continue to provide support for a programme that ensures the children in the camps have access to good quality education
4. Advocate a boycott of goods sold in Britain that are produced in inhuman conditions in Burma
5. Continue to organise meetings and activities at which the voice of our Rohingya community can be heard
6. Provide financial support for such activities.

Proposed H Danson

Word Count 207

Supply motion

Conference notes:

1. Rule 11 of the union's rule book allows independent schools, post-16 establishments, support staff and members in the equalities sections to send delegates and agree motions at their annual conference to go direct to the annual conference
2. Currently the supply members' conference is omitted from this list.

Conference believes:

- i. This is detrimental to supply members
- ii. The annual supply members' conference, which attracts 100 members is the best opportunity to propose, debate and get consensus on key issues affecting this disadvantaged section of membership.

Conference instructs the executive to:

- a. Include in the title of rule 11, the words "Supply Member" i.e: "Independent Schools, Post 16 Establishments, Support Staff and Supply Member Sections"

Proposed Louise Lewis

Word Count 119

Pensions

Conference commits the NEU to continuing to campaign in defence of pensions for all educators whether members of the Teachers Pensions Scheme, independent pension providers or of the Local Government Pensions Scheme.

Conference congratulates those members, especially in the independent sector and those in academy trusts such as United Learning, who have campaigned in defence of their pensions and urges the Executive to continue to give full backing to these campaigns.

Conference calls on the Government to:

- make it a statutory requirement that all teachers in the state and independent sector, together with all Supply teachers, are members of the Teachers Pensions Scheme unless they voluntarily opt out;
- make it mandatory for Local Authorities and academy trusts to set up supply teacher pools, where joining the TPS is possible.

Conference opposes any proposal to increase the retirement age and calls for the age of retirement for all educators to be set at 65 and that the state pension shall be payable at the age of 65.

Conference calls on the Government to ensure:

- for full compensation to be paid to the “WASPI” women
- an unconditional commitment to the maintenance of the Triple lock for State Pensions
- an immediate freeze on Utility bills for gas, water and electricity
- all pensioners in receipt of the State Pension receive the same increase on their pension no matter whether they are on the lower rate of pension or the new state pension for those retiring after April 2016.

Conference believes that all members of the NEU who are retired are entitled to play a full part in the Union and that District Rules must include a dedicated Officer post for Members who are Retired (MRO) on their committees and that support be given to facilitate the establishment and organising of groups for members who are retired. Coordination across Regions should ensure expenses for travel, food and, where appropriate, accommodation costs for Regional Meetings.

Conference instructs the Executive to make a submission to the Government Pensions Review addressing the above concerns and the inequalities faced by different groups of staff who are retired.

Proposed G Goodswen

Word Count 348

EQUALITY AND SECTOR CONFERENCES

Conference notes the Executive's decision to:

1. restrict members to attending one equality and one sector conference per academic year
2. deprioritise members who are not workplace reps from attending these conferences
3. exert significantly more control over what these conferences discuss
4. no longer fund or support overnight events for informal networks.

Conference believes

this decision will require members to choose which part of their experience and work as an educator is most important to them

this decision will lead to sector conferences becoming more dominated by delegates who are not part of another sector

similarly, this decision will lead to equality conferences becoming more dominated by delegates who do not qualify for any other equality conference

this decision will leave many Districts unrepresented at many conferences

it is a mistake to deprioritise members who are not workplace reps (especially those who might be District equality officers and/or Organising Forum members) from attending equality conferences

the decision to try to make these conferences more similar undermines the reason they exist, that different groups and sectors have different experiences and issues

the exercise of increased central control over these conferences undermines their role in developing and empowering activists and strengthening participation in union democracy

a key role of these conferences is to tell the national union about the issues and concerns of the members concerned

having senior union staff veto conference organising groups' speaker invitations is undemocratic

the decision to no longer fund or support overnight events for informal networks contradicts policy passed at the union's 2025 annual conference

the growth of our equality and sector conferences is something to celebrate, not a pretext for restricting their power and inclusivity.

Conference instructs the Executive to:

- A. rescind its decision to adopt US 10 270925
- B. never again make a decision about a group of members without input from that group of members and its representatives
- C. carry out a process of democratic discussion of options for the future of sector and equality conferences, with the full participation of Organising Forums and National Councils
- D. present a series of options arising from that discussion to annual conference 2027.

Proposed Louise Lewis

Word Count 361?

Safeguarding for everyone

Conference notes that

- a) Providing a safe environment for young people is of paramount importance for educators and that Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) play a key role in keeping the young people we educate safe.
- b) That teachers who are subject to allegations by members of the school community will be referred to the LADO for consideration.

Conference believes that

- i) where staff are alleged to have behaved inappropriately that they should be subject to the most rigorous investigation.
- ii) the LADO process is opaque and can produce an outcome on incomplete investigations.
- iii) that the LADO decision has far reaching consequences. That if an allegation is “upheld” as having reached the threshold that this must be recorded on an educator’s record and references even if subsequent investigations show the initial investigation to have been flawed or misleading.
- iv) this means that the person who is the subject of the allegation is not given a full chance to represent themselves.
- v) there is very limited recourse to appeal the outcome of a LADO.
- vi) we need a secure process that produces just outcomes – if the process loses confidence of education staff they might be reluctant to refer concerns to the LADO, which in term increases the chance of genuine safeguarding concerns not being addressed.
- vii) caseworkers need to have access to tools to represent members properly.

Conference instructs the executive:

1. to set up a working group to investigate the LADO process – staffed by experience caseworkers, legal advisors and safeguarding experts.
2. to investigate how LADO referral system can be changed so that it ensures that young people are provided with the safe environment and protection, while allowing educators scope to represent themselves effectively.
3. to produce recommendations by conference 2026 for how the NEU should proceed on this issue.

Proposed H Danson

Word Count 310