

Black History Month

In October 2013 as part of Black History month, Northumbria University UCU branch along with Show Racism the Red Card and the University hosted a talk from award winning journalist and author Gary Younge about his latest book 'The Speech: The Story Behind Martin Luther King's Dream'. The event was introduced and chaired by Sue Abbott, Equality Officer for the branch. Chi Onwurah MP spoke at the event and talked about living in Tyneside as a young black girl. She wondered about the impact Martin Luther King may have had for black families in the area when he received his honorary doctorate at Newcastle University in 1967 (the footage of this speech was also shown). Laura Pidcock from Show Racism the Red Card also spoke about the work they were doing particularly with young people.

Gary Younge gave some fascinating insights into the 'Dream' speech and the political context of both this and subsequent developments. As well as an analysis of what made it such a good speech, Gary Younge also talked about the importance of it for today, and how things have or have not moved on for racial equality.

Racial Equality, Diversity and Public Policy in the North East Region 13th November 2013 Durham University

This was an excellent opportunity to network with over a hundred delegates from very diverse organisations. There was representation from local universities, BME community groups, Regional Refugee Forum, Runnymede Trust, Oxfam, local authorities, the NHS, probation services, various police forces, the Crown Prosecution Service and many other local organisations.

As might be expected, throughout the day there was repeated reference to the impact of cuts which have hit equality projects disproportionately hard, particularly in the North-East. There was discussion about Theresa May's racist van initiative, Islamophobia and the influence of the EDL, noting their North East branch as one of the largest in the country.

There were workshops in the morning and afternoon which included: Tackling race hate crime, Voices and visibility of BME women, Working on racism in youth work and Migrants and refugees in and out of work.

There was general consensus that this type of event should be held on a regular basis and agreement that there needs to be a North East response to addressing racial inequality. The organisers are aiming to produce a full report for distribution to delegates.

If you would like a copy of **Racial Justice: A Business Case For North East's Economic Survival** Ratna Lachman's (JUST West Yorkshire) keynote speech or **Invisibilising 'race' in public policy** Gary Craig (Durham University) please email jude.letham@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk

UCU Equality Conference 15th November 2013

For the first time the UCU equality conferences were combined into a one day event. Whilst, on the positive side, this made for an interesting general equality afternoon of varied workshops and guest speakers (Melissa Benn and Peter Tatchell), many delegates expressed regret that they could only attend one conference in the morning and that time was very limited.

The Women's conference included the passing of motions against Lad culture in HE and promotion of recruitment of female activists. There were also with discussions on "Women as Activists" and "Women in the Curriculum".



Melissa Benn



Peter Tatchell

Holocaust Memorial Day 2014

We have a speaker to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, following our Regional Meeting on Saturday 25th January. Mick Bowman from UK-Burma Trade Union Solidarity Network will give a presentation on Ethnic Cleansing in Burma.

Information on 35 HMD events which are being held in the North East can be found following this link <http://www.hmd.org.uk/events/find/North%20East>

Two additional events:

- **Are We Any Better?**
The Customs House, Mill Dam, South Shields NE33 1ES
22nd January 7.30pm £7.50 Sunderland College students An original piece devised and performed by Sunderland College students, using physical theatre and multimedia to create a hard hitting performance using the Holocaust as a starting point.
- **UCU Holocaust Memorial Day film at Northumbria University Students' Union on Monday 27th January 2014 3-4pm.**
- Flyer and further information available online:
<https://plus.google.com/113627509446820944817/posts/5ACuwAi2Q9Z>
<https://plus.google.com/113627509446820944817/posts/7SLbTWMDvp8>

Northern Black Members Network Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Northern Black Members' Network on Saturday 25th January at 2.30pm, following the Northern Regional Committee. Contact Emma Alexander ealexander@ucu.org.uk for more information. There are details of resources, support and information for black members at www.ucu.org.uk/blackmem

LGBT History Month

February 2014

The theme for this year is Music. For ideas on how to mark LGBT History Month please use the following link to the Stonewall website:

http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at_school/education_for_all/quick_links/lgbt_history_month_2013/

Resources, support and information for LGBT members can be found on the UCU website: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/lgbtmembers>



Equality & Diversity Week at Sunderland College 2nd -6th December 2013

This event was planned as a week-long roadshow, visiting each of the five main centres for one day. As 3rd December was a day of industrial action, all events were cancelled that day meaning that the Diversity Football Tournament and input from Young Asian Voices did not take place. However, the other four days saw input from a number of organisations including: Age UK, MIND, Amnesty International, Freedom from Torture, Traidcraft, Guide Dogs, Christian Aid, Sunderland Pride, Ken Hall (a local author and inspirational older person), Early Intervention into Psychosis, College nurses, Refugee Drop-In Group



In addition to visiting information stalls, students and staff were able to attend talks and workshops, view an exhibition about ethnic cleansing and watch dance and drama displays on diversity issues devised and performed by College students.



Key Dates 23rd January – 4th April

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Thursday 23 rd January	<p>Equality and Human Rights Commission - Workshop 23/01/2014 http://www.disabilitynorth.org.uk/news.html</p> <p>The Equality and Human Rights Commission is currently working on submitting a 'list of issues' that they want the UN Disability Committee to consider. This list will help to set the agenda for the examination of the UK Government's report on implementation of the Disability Convention which is expected to happen in 2015. They are currently engaging disabled people on the issues to include in their submission to the UN Committee.</p>
Monday 27 th January	<p>Holocaust Memorial Day</p> <p>The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity which promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). 27 January is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people killed in the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. 27 January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.</p> <p>http://www.hmd.org.uk/</p>
Friday 31 st January	UCU Standing Committees at Head Office: Women Members & Disabled Members
February	<p>LGBT History Month http://lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/</p>
Friday 7 th February	UCU Standing Committees at Head Office: LGBT & Black Members
Friday 14 th February	UCU Equality Committee at Head Office & Deadline for Congress Motions
Friday 21 st March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Saturday 8 th March	<p>International Women's Day Join a global movement to empower women and girls! Make history! http://onedayunite.org/</p>
Friday 4 th April	UCU Standing Committees at Head Office: Women, Disabled, LGBT, Black members