

Urgent: sacking of Nina Doran

City of Liverpool College UCU branch appeal:

'In 2021, City of Liverpool College (CoLC) UCU Liaison Committee Secretary and Branch Health and Safety rep. Nina Doran was subject to a protracted suspension by CoLC for allegedly breaching college policies in preparation for a protected disclosure. Nina was acting in her capacity as a union rep.

In addition, the employer suspended Nina one week before the longest strike action the branch was preparing to take, 6 full days. Nina was the chief negotiator in the pay dispute and had campaigned and organised reps and members in getting the vote out and in preparation for the strike action. The suspension was severely irregular procedurally - it totalled 6 months, breaching the timescales allowed in policy and recommended by ACAS guidelines. The investigation was unfair, and despite local representations the employer has now dismissed Nina.

The employer has acted deplorably in the dismissal of Nina, a professional with over thirty years experience of outstanding teaching as a respected teacher educator. Nina has been an active union member and branch rep. for 15 years. She has held several branch roles, and for the last eight years has been active as Branch and Committee Chair, as well as on the North West regional Committee and on the National Executive (to which she has recently been re-elected). She is exemplary in organising members, a veteran campaigner on behalf of UCU within the College, and has been instrumental in supporting and negotiating for the benefit of all teaching staff.

We believe Nina has experienced an unfair disciplinary process and victimisation. Her dismissal is to the detriment of the whole college community. We demand immediate reinstatement. An injury to one is an injury to all! Why is this important?

The employer is testing the Union's solidarity amongst members, so we are calling on all CoLC employees, UCU members and supporters to resist any intimidation and harassment and stand up to support the rep. who has supported so many colleagues and UCU members at the college, and someone who has worked tirelessly for others, to champion teachers and to secure the best of standards in FE. She has always been there for staff in their time of need, and now she needs your support.'

PSE readers are urged to sign the petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/reinstate-nina-doran-victimisation-of-ucu-rep>

and/or write protesting Nina's victimisation to:

The Principal and Board of the College
c/o City of Liverpool College
Roscoe Street
Liverpool
L1 9DW

Where we stand:

Post-16 Educator seeks to defend and extend good practice in post compulsory education and training. Good practice includes teachers working with students to increase their power to look critically at the world around them and act effectively within it. This entails challenging racism, sexism, heterosexism, inequality based on disability and other discriminatory beliefs and practices.

For the mass of people, access to valid post compulsory education and training is more necessary now than ever. It should be theirs by right! All provision should be organised and taught by staff who are trained for and committed to it. Publicly funded provision of valid post compulsory education and training for all who require it should be a fundamental demand of the trade union movement.

Post-16 Educator seeks to persuade the labour movement as a whole of the importance of this demand. In mobilising to do so it bases itself first and foremost upon practitioners - those who are in direct, daily contact with students. It seeks the support of every practitioner, in any area of post-16 education and training, and in particular that of women, of part timers and of people outside London and the Southeast.

Post-16 Educator works to organise readers/contributors into a national network that is democratic, that is politically and financially independent of all other organisations, that develops their practice and their thinking, and that equips them to take action over issues rather than always having to react to changes imposed from above.